

Arnhem Land

Wilderness Photography Masterclass

2013 / Aug 20-24

2014 / Aug 25-29

Wildlife and wilderness on a 5-day luxury masterclass. Rock art at Mt Borradaile and the remote charms of Davidson's Safari Camp are the backdrop to an exploration of photographic expression. This is one of the most spectacular locations in Australia, a unique piece of the Top End to be enjoyed with professional wildlife guides and expert tuition from Ewen Bell and Ian Rolfe.

A photographic adventure designed by photographers and for photographers. Maximum group size of 8.



PHOTOGRAPHY
by Ewen Bell



The Quick Version

Day 1

We start the adventure in Darwin and catch a 7:30am charter flight direct to Mt Borradaile to the north-east of Kakdu National Park. We'll settle into our accommodation and discuss the detailed plans for the workshop ahead. That afternoon we'll head onto the billabong for sunset.

Day 2-4

For three days we'll head out early in the morning and late in the afternoon to shoot wildlife and see the rock art. During the heat of the day we'll stick closer to the camp, where tree frogs and a swimming pool will give everyone something to tinker with.

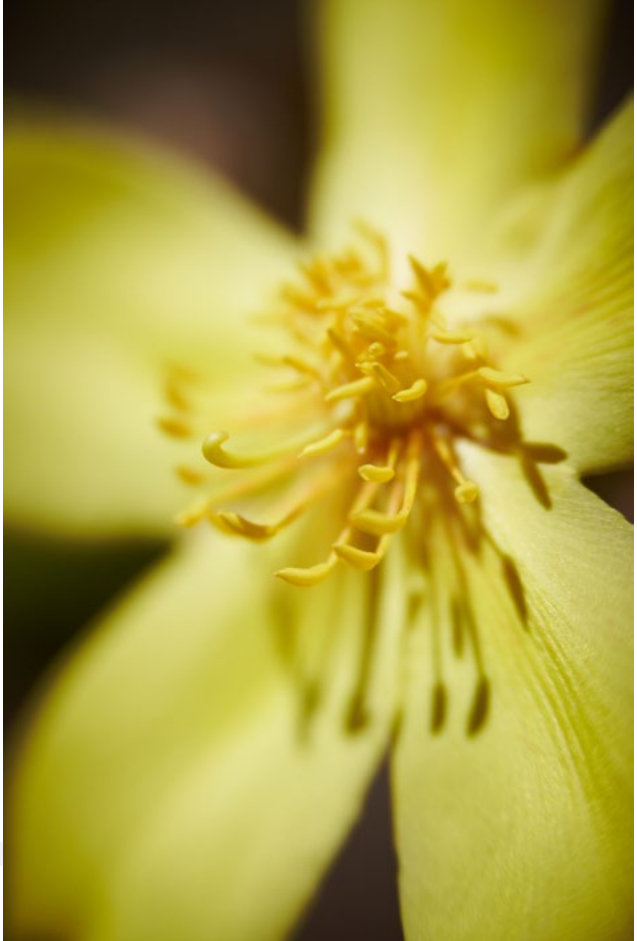
A series of workshop sessions are planned to explore everything from camera setup, lens techniques, philosophies of composition and processing digital images. Each session is hands on and we'll have the evenings as well to discuss the photographic goals of that day and compare ideas for the next day.

Day 5

We fly out of the safari camp at 9am, landing in Darwin well before noon and with plenty time for onward flights south.



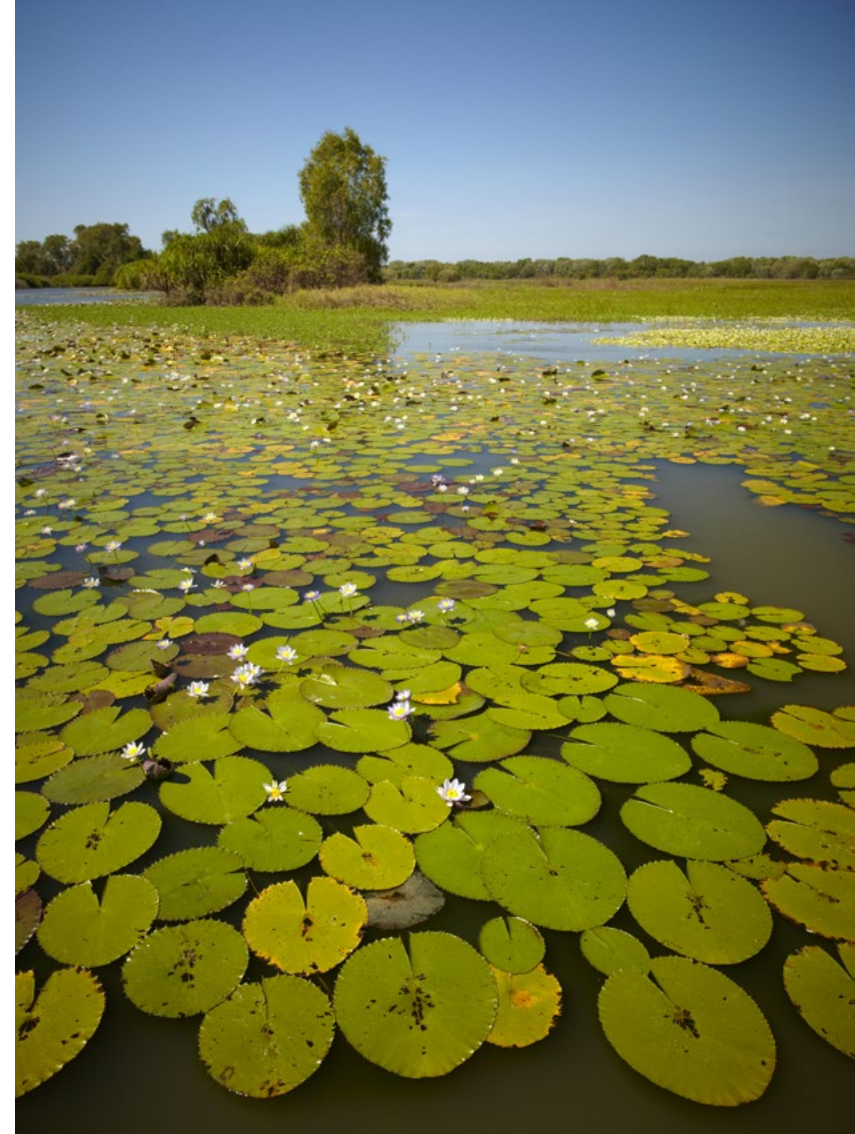




Highlights

What will we see at Mt Borradaile?

- Rare species of rock wallaby
- The unique colours of the Leichhardt's Grasshopper
- Tree Frogs and their smaller cousins
- Dozens of species of wetlands birds
- White Bellied Sea Eagles and Brahminy Kites
- Jabiru and Brolga
- Saltwater Crocodiles
- Sunset scenes across the wetlands
- Jacana and Spoonbills
- Azure Kingfishers and Blue Winged Kookaburras
- Paperbark forests
- Pandanus trees
- Water lillies and wildflowers
- Remarkable collections of rock art dating back over 15,000 years
- Sensational cuisine from the resident chef
- The unique experience of expert guides and their love of the landscape







Photographic Tuition

Not only are these tours designed to deliver exceptional photographic opportunities, but you get a pair of professional photographers included too, covering a range of photographic styles including landscape, wildlife and fine art. Ewen and Ian are experienced photo tour guides who care deeply about your experience and helping you to get the best photos possible.

Because the group sizes are limited to just 8 people, Ewen and Ian together will have time to help you with one-on-one advice. For the duration you have a personal expert to offer ideas and answer questions. Even better, you're in a group of like-minded people, resulting in a total photographic immersion.

Every detail of the craft is open to discussion. Ewen's style is to emphasise the creative potential of photography without getting mired in the technical. He will push you to be in control of the camera, to make your images your own with the objectives of creativity and expression.

These tours and workshops are designed to help you learn to take better photos, and go home with some incredible experiences. Ian and Ewen will be there every step of the way to offer support as you need it.

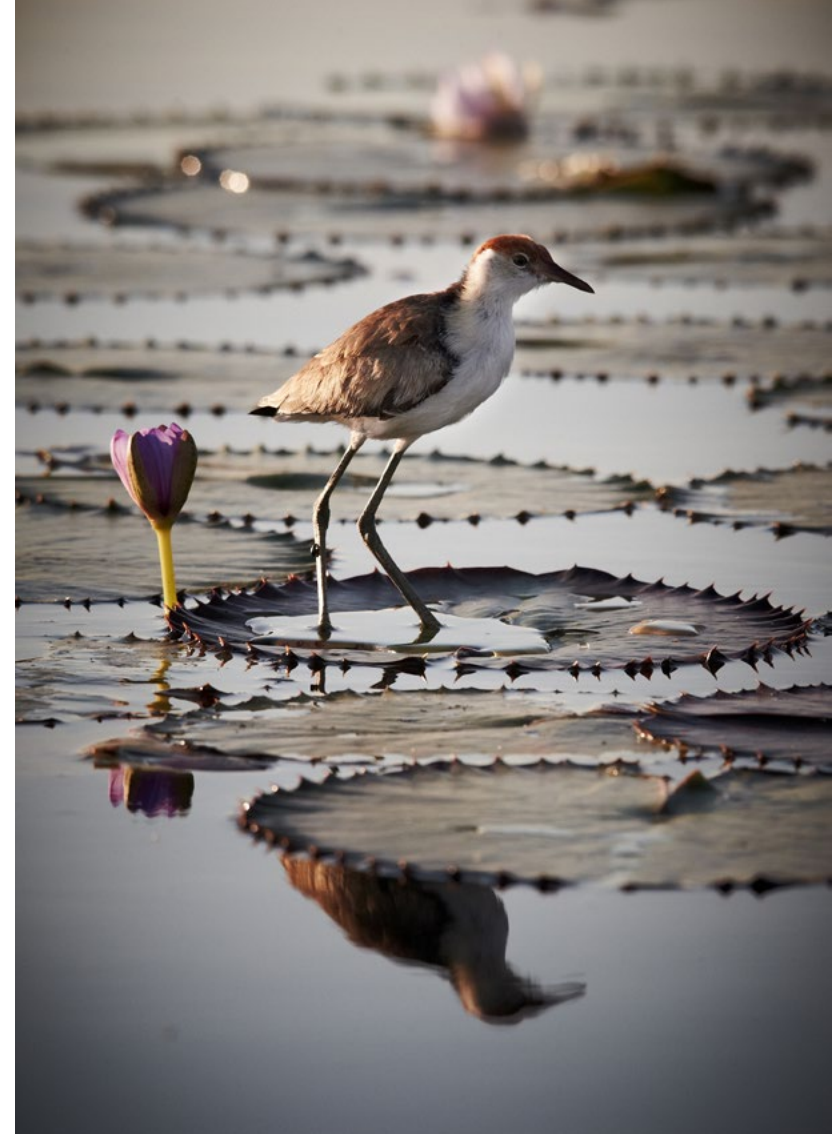


Wetlands Wildlife

It's the bird life that really makes the billabongs of Arnhem Land special. Diversity, colour and adaptation to the environment provide fascinating opportunities as we explore the wetlands by boat. Some are very shy, some are very small and some are impressively abundant.

There are massive saltwater crocodiles throughout the waters of Mt Borradaile, providing an element of adventure to every outing we make. From the safety of an aluminium dinghy we'll patiently approach the birds as they forage and feed. Our trips will concentrate on the early morning light, with some sunset trips as well. The times when the birds are most active.

There are never any certainties when shooting wildlife, but you can be certain that Mt Borradaile will give you the best ration of birds to cameras in the entire Northern Territory.







Learn and Explore

Anyone who loves photography can join this tour.

Skills and experience is not a prerequisite. Enthusiasm is essential. There is ample one on one time so that your questions can be answered, your photos can be reviewed and your expression can be encouraged. With such a small group size we can ensure everybody gets the encouragement and guidance they desire.

If you're a confident photographer or already work at a professional level, then this workshop will simply assist with getting great shots. We encourage everyone on tour to share ideas, to discuss their experiences and learn from each other as well.

Partners are also welcome on these photo tours, but they may need to exercise a little patience with the desires of photographers to make the most of special moments. My photography tours put the photographers first :)



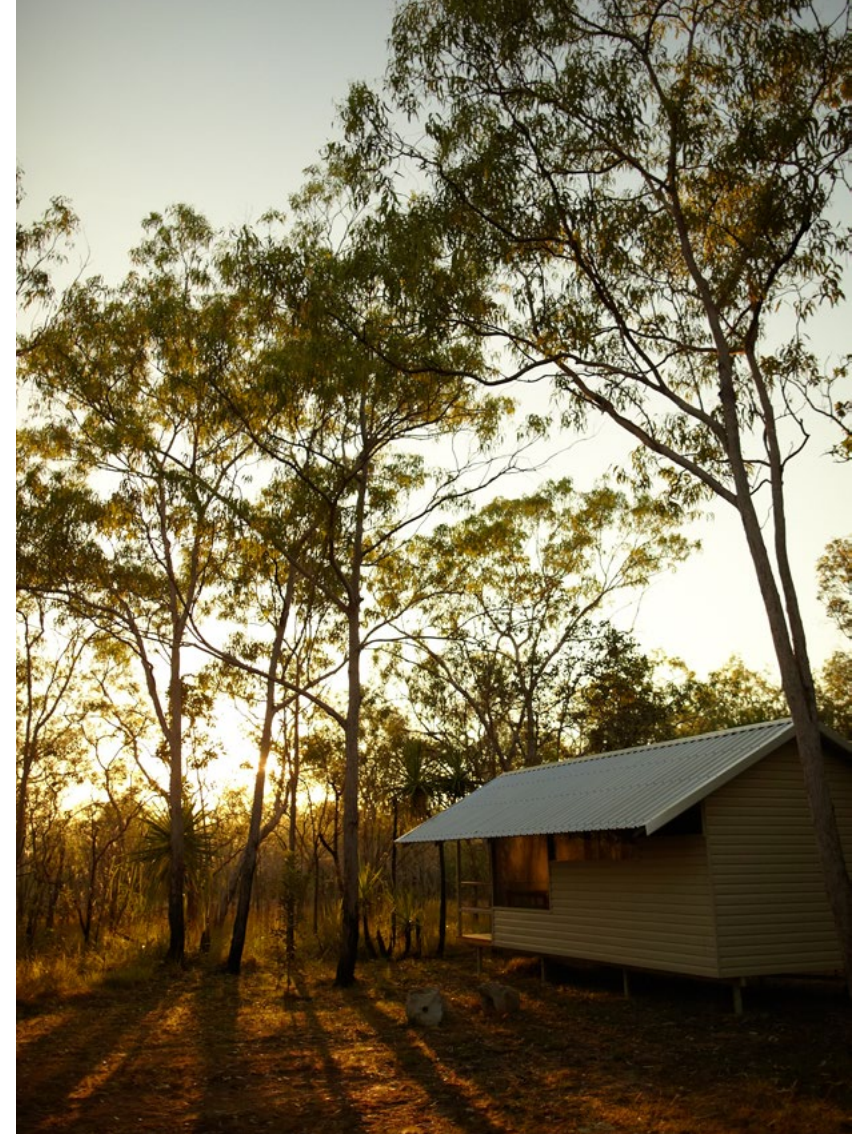
The Luxury Camp

Our home for the duration of the 5 day Masterclass is Davidson's Safari Camp, a remote and remarkable facility near the waters of Cooper Creek Billabong. Ewen has been a guest at the camp many times before and regards this as the best wildlife experience you can find in Australia's Top End.

You won't get better in Kakadu, not for wetlands creatures, comfortable cabins or culinary indulgence. All meals are included during the stay, and a charter flight from Darwin gets you directly into the wilds of Arnhem. On arrival the team at Davidson's will be on hand to offer their expertise and get you to the best places for photography.

Every cabin has private ensuite facilities and electricity is available to recharge cameras and laptops. A lovely central lodge provides a social area for sharing images, chatting about techniques and relaxing during the day. There's even a modest pool for cooling down quickly in the heat of the day.

www.arnhemland-safaris.com







Rock Art

Adding to the artistic influences of the Masterclass will be visits to select rock art sites around the Mt Borradaile sacred area. This is one of the most inspiring locations in Australia to engage with rock art dating back thousands of years.

There will be no shortage of opportunities to photograph the art. Wildlife and ancient stories feature in the ochre works, sometime depicting the very same animals that we will attempt to photograph.

You wont have to trek for days to see the best sites, just short hikes through the bush or at the end of a short boat trip. Visits to these important art sites have been welcomed by the local indigenous community, and we visit with their blessing.



Camera Gear

We recommend the use of Digital SLR cameras for this journey, but you are not restricted from using any type of camera you may have, including conventional film SLRs and compact cameras.

You will want as much as 400mm of telephoto to take full advantage of the wildlife experience. A 300mm lens with a 1.4x converter for example works nicely, or a 70-200mm zoom with a 2x converter. Please discuss your equipment and objective with Ewen and Ian in advance of the tour to make sure you have some workable options within your budget.

A macro lens or extension tube will be useful, and a wide angle lens is always handy. Again, you can chat with Ewen or Ian to plan your options.

Finally, we do encourage you bring a laptop. We'll have lots of opportunity to share and review images during the journey, plus your laptop can serve as a valuable backup or storage device to make room for more photographs each day. Affordable and light Ultrabooks or the Macbook Air are powerful enough to edit RAW files, review your work and record important details from the workshop.



Your Escort / Ewen Bell

For the duration of the workshop your photographic instructor will be award winning professional Ewen Bell. His work is published all over the world in travel brochures, the travel media and photography magazines. Ewen's depth of experience with photography tours is impressive, with over 25 journeys completed in recent years across Asia, Australia and Antarctica.

"This destination in Arnhem Land is one of the most remarkable places I have travelled in Australia. Max Davidson has built a relationship of trust with the indigenous land owners, and shares his passion for the culture and nature with every visitor."

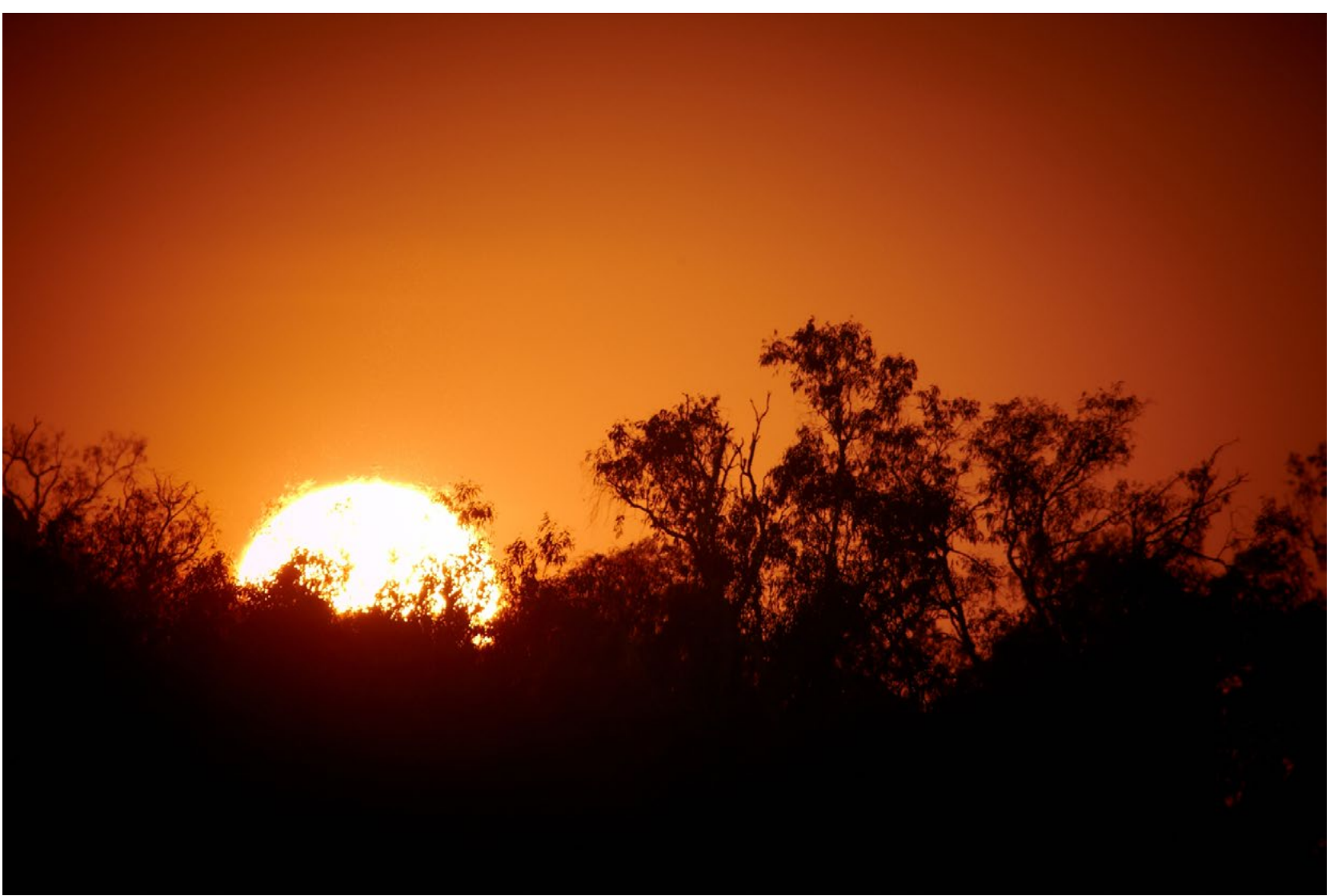
It wouldn't be a great photo workshop without a great photographer. But don't take our word for it, visit his website and see for yourself.

www.ewenbell.com





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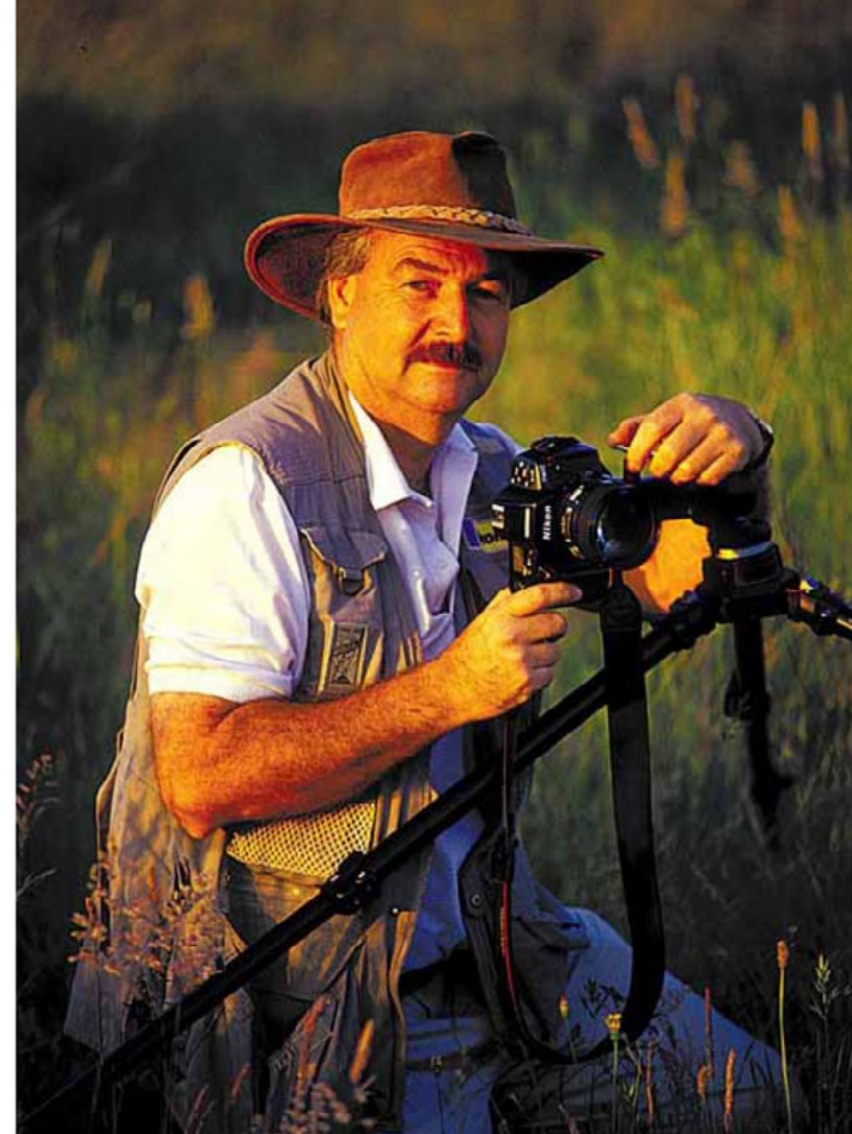
Your Escort / Ian Rolfe

Ian has travelled extensively here in Australia, Great Britain, South-East Asia and North America, and much of the Pacific regions, where he has built up an extensive photo library used in travel brochure work and his photographic writing. Tasmania is Ian's favourite destination, and to date has made over seventy trips across Bass Strait to photograph this beautiful and alluring Island state.

Ian is a well-known travel and landscape photographer whose column started to appear in the Photo-master magazine over ten years ago. Since then his work has been published in numerous books, Photography magazines and travel brochures and his Panoramic Photo's are currently used in a European Image Library. Ian also conducts up to 12 Photographic workshops each year both locally and overseas and also gives lectures and presentations at Club level to help members who are passionate about developing further in their photographic knowledge and skills.

Ian is presently a member of the VAPS committee and is also currently serving as President of Southern Suburbs Photographic Society.

www.ianrolfephotography.net







Art and Creativity

The camera is like a paintbrush, and in the hands of different people it will produce very different images.

Ewen Bell specialises in teaching people about the creative potential of photography, to go beyond the technical issues of a camera and start taking creative control. Expression is at the heart of great photography, sharing your perspective, your view, your experience. Travelling into Arnhem Land for a workshop experience like this one will offer lots of inspiration, but additionally an instructor like Ewen will give you new ways to express your perspective.

A few basic principles underpin the art of travel photography. Go Slow. Get Closer. Look for the Light. Photography is about expression and finding your voice with the camera.



Who Travels With Us

Our photographic journeys appeal to both the young and old, the experienced and novice. Most tours are made up of people aged 25 to 65, and occasionally older or younger still. It doesn't matter what your skills and interest in photography are, you will enjoy sharing a creative and immersive experience with like minded people.

You can read feedback from Ewen's past travellers on photography tours by visiting www.ewenbell.com







The Fine Print

Dates

2013: August 20 - August 24

2014: August 25 - August 29

Price

AU \$5,550

Initial deposit is \$2,000 and is non-refundable

Group Size

Maximum of 8 people

Inclusions

The instructing photographers and expert wildlife guide are included for this tour. All meals, permits, transfers and the charter flight are included in the price. You need only pay for drinks during your stay. Even the sunrise is included :)

Accommodation

Davidson's Safari Camp has recently been upgraded to provide simple but elegant cabins with private facilities. All accommodation is on a twin-share basis unless you select to pay the single supplement.

Difficulty Rating

The weather in August is dry but not too hot. We won't be trekking and there's a swimming pool at the camp.

Not included

- Flight to and from Darwin
- Accommodation and meals in Darwin
- Gratuities and items of personal nature
- Beverages, Laundry, Phone and Internet Charges
- Your Camera!

The itinerary information may vary slightly for your specific departure, as we continuously research and develop each trip. Inclement weather or other factors outside our control may also necessitate minor alterations.



Make A Booking

How to Book

Simply drop an email to Ian Rolfe or Ewen Bell. You'll be sent an invoice for the workshop and your place is confirmed once the deposit of \$2000 is received.

We recommend you ensure you have travel insurance in case your travel plans change before the workshop. Your deposit is non-refundable.

ewen@ewenbell.com

ianrolfe@bigpond.com

