

Photography Workshop

October 2021
with Ewen Bell

Kenya Safari

15 day adventure into the wild. Join Ewen Bell and his favourite Kenyan wildlife guide in private land cruisers to explore the wilderness, wildlife, birds and culture of Kenya. Incredible value and a once in a lifetime journey.

Oct 1-14 2021
Maximum group size of 8
USD \$12,880pp

PHOTOGRAPHY
by Ewen Bell



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Inclusions

Everything is covered including meals and park fees.

3

Wildlife

Magnificent locations for a classic Kenyan safari.

5

Culture

Meet the tribes folk who call Kenya home.

2

Luxury

Tented camps and lodges plus private landcruisers.

4

Birds

We'll be shooting the small creatures as well as the big

6

Comfort

Maximum of 4 guests per 4wd.

2020 Itinerary

Oct 1 Nairobi

We begin our journey by meeting up at the Tamarind Hotel, just outside the centre of Nairobi. There are nearby shopping malls if you need to pickup anything last minute, and any excess luggage can be left at the hotel until we return at the end of the journey. Airport transfers on arrival to Nairobi are included and we recommend Kenya Airways or KLM who operate out of the newest and most comfortable terminal for arrivals and departures.

Oct 2-4 Samburu

We start our journey with a flight north to the Samburu region, where some rare species of zebras and giraffe can be found. There are marvellous birds to see here as well, and some really majestic landscapes. Samburu is a little further from Nairobi than most parks and has plenty of wide open spaces for us to explore. We have a very elegant lodge called Sarova Shaba for our three nights in Samburu and will have plenty of time to see the far reaches of the park. A speciality of here are open waterholes where big animals come down to drink from, often at the same time.

Oct 5 The Aberdares

It's a big drive to reach the Aberdares from Samburu and we break the drive with a stop at the delightful Trout Tree for lunch. Our destination for the evening will be The Ark, a quirky and unique lodge with a special viewing area for wildlife that come to the watering hole. A bird hide is located in the basement of the lodge for shooting in the mornings and afternoons. We stay here only one night as we continue heading west the next day. Our drive out of the park takes us through some higher elevations and we'll stop on the way to seek out Malachite Sunbird.





Oct 6-7 Elementaita Serena

Lake Nakuru is also famous for Flamingo but it depends on the water level each year. When there's too much water in Nakuru all the flamingoes head north to Bogoria. We stop here for some excellent wildlife spotting regardless, including a game drive to find leopards. With or without the flamingos there is plenty of other bird life around Nakuru and Lake Elementaita, plus the Elementaita Serena camp is central to some excellent bird walks through light forest and low-canopy savannah.

Oct 8-9 Bogoria Bogoria

Our journey takes us south to a more salty wetland habitat, Bogoria Bogoria, which is famous for offering suitable conditions for the Flamingo. The high geothermal activity in the region also gives us a chance to try hot springs. We will be looking for Hamerkops and the Grey-crowned Crane at Lake Bogoria, the elegant Rufous-crowned Roller, the quirky Abyssinian Scimitarbill, plus some harder to capture birds like the Steel-blue Wydah, Narina Trogon and D'Arnuad's Barbet.

Oct 10-12 Baringo Island Camp

Our final safari stop takes us to the Island Camp of Baringo for a very peaceful and remote experience. Crocodiles and hippos in these waters make it very unfriendly for swimming, so we'll stick to the camp pool instead. The bird life here is rich in colourful kingfishers, Hornbills, Sunbirds, the rare Verreaux's Eagle, a variety of storks, and the Violet Wood Hoopoe. Just to name a few of the 400+ species we potentially can observe here.

Oct 13 Nairobi

We catch our private plane out of the Maasai Mara to make the journey to Nairobi a lot quicker and a little more scenic. It's a private aircraft chartered just for us so you won't have to worry about checkin limits or how heavy your camera bag is. If you have excess luggage from travelling before or after the Kenya trip, you can leave it at our Nairobi hotel to be reunited at the end. The evening in Nairobi will be our last night together and a chance to repack before catching our international flights home.

Oct 14 Departure

Checkout from hotel in the morning will be 11am. We will have a private airport transfer arranged for each of your flights.











White-browed Chat



Variable Sunbird



Invitation to Beginners

Everybody is on their own journey and we love helping people explore new horizons in photography. We take time to assist everyone on a tour with their specific needs, to talk about what they want to learn. Sometimes that means how to take advantage of different modes on the camera, sometimes it's a discussion about how to advance your career in photography.

No two people are the same. That's why we keep these trips limited to just 8 people, so we can enjoy their company and spend time helping everybody along with their particular journey.

You don't need to be an expert to come on this tour. We will help you with suggestions on what to bring to make the most of the opportunities. We're here to help.



Getting Closer

It's a mantra of Ewen's that if you want a better photo then you need to get closer to your subject.

This is not always easy when shooting birds and wildlife, but we're going to do our best to make it happen. Big game will be chased in the landcruisers, and small game will be enjoyed when walking near our lodges. Our goal is help you get great images of the wildlife, and have a wonderful experience of Kenya.

Our landcruisers have with roof hatches so you can stand up with telephoto lenses and have a clear line of sight on wildlife action as it unfolds. On safari drives Ewen will ride up front to aid with spotting, and in the back there will be a maximum of 4 travellers per vehicle. Each vehicle is designed to carry 6 people in the rear instead of just 4, so there will be lots of room for everyone and minimal "elbow issues" when the action breaks out.

Most importantly, our drivers are extremely skilled in getting the small but agile vehicles into excellent positions for us to photograph. We call them drivers, but we understate their abilities as such. They are wilderness guides of the first order. On Ewen's previous trip to Kenya to shoot a magazine story he concluded, "A good driver is more important than a good photographer."



Lovely Lenses

Yes a good quality telephoto lens will be essential on this trip, but please make sure you have a good wide angle for scenery and a portrait lens for meeting tribes people. A 24-70mm f/2,8 will cover most of the non-wildlife photography.

For shooting wildlife the 200-800mm range is where you want to be. Shooting smaller birds simply demands a longer lens, and sometimes even the bigger ones don't come close enough. For most other wildlife 400mm is very good, but you will want to go well beyond that to really enjoy bird photography.

There are some superb telephoto lenses on the market which reach to 400mm, which when combined with a smaller DSLR and/or a 1.4x extender will give you close to 600mm or 800mm reach. A full-frame DSLR is not the most practical option when chasing wildlife, and smaller sensor cameras can offer a reasonable trade-off between performance, travelability and quality.

All of the bird images in this brochure were taken with the Lumix G9 with a 100-400mm lens, the equivalent of 200-800mm on a full-frame DSLR. It has a very small sensor but can still produce nice bokeh. Importantly, it has a sensational autofocus system that allows offers precision control over where you focus. You can read more about Ewen's adoption of the Lumix G9 and other bird photography advice on his website:

ewenbell.com/birds





Malachite Sunbird



Little Bee-eater



Northern Black Flycatcher



Arrow-marked Babbler



Speckled Mousebird



Dik Dik



Waterbuck



Grevy's zebra



Woodland Kingfisher







Image Processing

Ewen likes to emphasize how much of the art of photography takes place in the digital darkroom.

Every day of this adventure will allow for opportunities to discuss, refine and learn about post-capture processing techniques.

Do bring your laptop and your preferred processing software. A photo is never finished at the moment of the shutter, and as you learn different ways to process your images you can also adjust your technical approach to the camera accordingly.



Art of Birds

Ewen will help you with the technical challenges to chasing birds, but they will also guide you on the artistic potential. Mastering a little of the technical can open doors to much greater creativity.

He will help you prepare for the trip in advance and discuss different solutions to suit your camera setup. We also encourage everyone on this trip bring a laptop so we can spend time processing images and working through the creative process during our travels.

Every photo in this brochure is a photo that you can achieve, and we will do our best to help you experience the same photographic joy.

Read more about Ewen's birding editorial and photography here:

ewenbell.com/birds





Pied Kingfisher



Lilic-breasted Roller





Fish Eagle



Cheetah



Colobus Monkey





African Spoonbill



Golden-breasted Bunting



White-browed Coucal



Red-billed Oxpecker

Wildlife & Bird Guide

Chris Kiarie

Born & raised in Central Province, Kenya. Chris is an energetic and knowledgeable tour guide with vast experience leading safari groups across East Africa. His bird interest started back in 2007 and he's presently a member of Nature Kenya, the sole body in Kenya focused on bird watching, bird ecology & bird counts.

Chris is well known in the guide community in Kenya and he holds a silver medal in the Kenya Professional Safari guide association, He was declared the best tour leader in East Africa in 2011-2012. Chris is an excellent safari driver, highly skilled with off road driving and is able to fix minor mechanical problems. Chris is a father of 3 and loves traditional Kenyan food such as "Ugali & Sukuma Wiki".

With a deep passion for nature and environmental causes, great communication skills and positive attitude Chris will bring a wonderful mix of local knowledge and Kenyan style to our safari.



Photography Instructor Ewen Bell

As you can see Ewen is a fan of the big cats, and the little ones too. Travel photographer and journalist, Ewen's work appears in photographic magazines, National Geographic Traveller, Lonely Planet Traveller, Food & Travel UK, Vacation & Travel, and many other outlets.

Ewen describes photography as a lifestyle, and enjoys sharing his love of the art with a select few travellers every year. Ewen is always happy to share his knowledge on photographic matters of technical, creative and career inspiration. His website "Photography for Travellers" is dedicated to offering advice on practical approaches to changing your creative perspective.

"The sunbirds are my favourite, if only because they are so fast and so small. Getting close enough to be happy with the photo demands patience and persistence. When you hear them singing across the tree tops it's quite marvellous though, whether you get a photo or not."

www.ewenbell.com





White Rhino



Elephants



Red-fronted Barbet



Vervet Monkey





Grant's Gazelle



Zebras



Dawn Light



Where We Stay

This is not a backpacking bus rambling across Africa with pasta and tomato sauce for dinner every night. It's a lot of luxury, a lot of wilderness and the occasional tented camp to give us the best access to wildlife along the way.

We have thrown in a few really luxurious stops along the way, but mostly we use well established lodges and tented camps to ensure that you are comfortable and well rested in between safaris. The most basic accommodation will be The Ark on the edge of the Abaderes, a quirky old lodge that hides amongst the lush forests. The rooms are modest in size but comfortable.

The itinerary is designed for wonderful wild life opportunities, and coupled with superb accommodation hand picked by Chris and Ewen.



Cultural Connections

Most people will travel to Kenya only once in a lifetime, so we want them to go home having had the most significant and rewarding experiences possible.

There's more to Kenya than the Big Five and Fire Finches. We love the wildlife but on this tour we also want to devote a little time to meet the people who enrich the culture of Kenya so deeply. To begin with we have our safari drivers. Schooled hard and long by the Kenya Wildlife Authorities they are incredibly knowledgeable on the natural reserves, national parks, animals, flora and more. They are our heroes.

Their wisdom extends beyond the wildlife and into logistics. These are the guys you want to have on hand to navigate around impassable dirt roads, hack through fallen trees on the track or simply avoid the worst of Nairobi traffic in the downtown. You will love our guys for their generous spirit and capable leadership.

From the very beginning when Chris and Ewen began designing this experience for photographers, they decided it was critical that travellers have a meaningful opportunity to engage and understand the people of the landscape, not just the wildlife. The itinerary you see here is the result of that plan.









Sunrise on th Savannah









The Fine Print

Dates

October 1-14, 2021

Price

USD \$12,880

Group Size

This tour is limited to 8 participants

Inclusions

- All meals are included and will be delicious
- All ground transportation
- Park permits and guide fees
- Airport transfers for International Flights
- Expert tuition from Ewen and Chris
- Private plane out of Baringo
- Private plane into Samburu

Exclusions

- Your camera gear
- Drinks and alcohol
- Flights into and out of Kenya
- Items of a personal nature

Accommodation Standard

The price is based on twin share accommodation in lodges and tented camps. Campsites on this tour are extremely comfortable and have private bathrooms for each tent.

Twin Share

The default rooming for this tour will be twin share, but you can pay a supplement of \$1690 to upgrade to a single room / private tent.

The itinerary information may vary for your specific departure, as we continuously research and develop each trip. Inclement weather or other factors outside our control may also necessitate alterations. Our intention is always to give you the very best experience.



Make Your Booking

Maximum of 8 places

How to Book

All bookings for this tour will be handled by your photographic leader Ewen Bell. Visit his website [here](http://www.ewenbell.com/kenya) to register for the trip and arrange your non-refundable deposit of US\$3,800.

Once your deposit has been received your place is confirmed.

[ewenbell.com/kenya](http://www.ewenbell.com/kenya)