



David Rogers Digital Photography Expeditions

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The Greatest Show on Earth

12 - 19 September 2010 \$4500 per person/ \$800 Single Supplement.
Book now to avoid disappointment. 6 people only

Join David Rogers in the Masai Mara for a digital photographic workshop at the height of the migration. This wonderful trip coincides with the end of the dry season when millions of wildebeest and hundreds of thousands of zebra converge on the rolling hills of the Masai Mara in search of grazing.

The herds are forced to cross rocky and crocodile-infested waters as they move across the plains. Seeing the animals gathering, massing and finally diving into

the water is one of the most dramatic wildlife events there is and we will be well placed for you to experience this. The Mara is an excellent area for predators especially lions, leopards and cheetah, plus great general game and birding.

Our home for six nights is Little Governors right alongside the Marsh and close to all the best action. This is where the BBC bases itself to film the Big Cat Diary and has been described by one director as as the finest wildlife real estate

in the world. Book now to avoid disappointment.



Governors luxury safari tented camps in Africa are superbly classical.

Itinerary

12 September. Fly into Nairobi (own arrangements) and be transferred to the Karen Blixen Hotel where we meet up, dine and overnight.

13 September. Depart Air Kenya at 09h15 and arrive 10.15 in the Mara and have a short game drive to Little Governors. For the next seven days we photograph and workshop amidst the greatest show on earth.

19 September. After a game drive we depart for JKIA at 10h15 and arrive there at 11h15 on a scheduled Air Kenya flight.

Getting the most from the Mara workshop



In the Mara, the opportunities for close-up photography of predators are legendary. It is possible to drive off road to get close to the action. There is thankfully a fairly strict protocol to make sure that there are not too many vehicles at each sighting and that damage to the environment is minimised. Walking is permitted in areas outside of the park and we will be visiting these to make the most of the opportunities that walking pres-

ents. There are balloon flights on offer from Little Governors – and they are a wonderful, once-in-a-lifetime experience.

A crossing

Everyone wants to see a crossing, and, although nothing can be guaranteed, there is a good chance of seeing one of them on a trip. Usually the animals start to build up in the morning and often cross at 11 or 12. But crocodiles, the sight of vehicles

or simple indecision, can also delay them. I have sat for four or five hours waiting for action only to find that the animals decide not to cross at all. The camp at Governors is very close to the main crossing points so we can often get good notice of any impending crossings.

Be selective

When we get back to camp everyone is encouraged to process their images promptly and present at least 10 images a day for viewing and assessment. These are valuable sessions as they give insight into different ways of seeing, processing of images and fuels critical analysis. It also allows us to find out quickly if anyone is having any technical difficulties. I encourage fast selection and you will find that the more you work through your images the quicker you will

become. Everyone in the group shows pictures and criticism is constructive and in a nurturing and creative environment.

Thinking ahead

During recent safaris we have used images to make a book using software such as Blurb. You can download the software at blurb.com, make up the book, and have it sent to you at your home in full colour.

Shooting pictures for a book requires a lot of planning and it's a great exercise in creative thinking. You will



need a good variety of images including shots of birds, animals, landscapes, on the road, people, lodge details, walking, macro, and details to make an interesting publication. On the workshop, I will talk about making books and also preparing your images for print.

Be prepared

Take a look at my list of recommended gear for the trip on my website. You should ideally have a laptop loaded with Adobe Lightroom, two camera bodies, a selection of lenses, a beanbag and loads of storage. This is one of the premier wildlife destinations in the world and I recommend that you consider buying, or hiring, a fast wildlife lens. This should have a minimum focal length of 300 mm and should ideally have a

minimum f-stop of f2.8 or f4 through its range. Chat to me if you need more specific advice.

Know your camera.

Before coming on a trip such as this it helps a great deal to know how to use the camera's aperture and shutter priority modes, and also know how to change ISO, and to use your focus, exposure and compensation settings. If you do not have a grip on these give me a call before the trip and I will give you an online lesson. Remember too that the number one issue out there with wildlife is keeping sharp.

An eye for design

On the trip I will spend a lot of time talking about design, selection and composition techniques. There are fundamental "rules" out there that can be learned in a flash and they can greatly improve your photogra-



phy. But there is no reason why you should not start thinking right now about what makes an image great and fine tuning your design.

And then...

After the trip, it is my goal to have given you some new skills that you can take with you elsewhere. If you have not been shooting RAW previously, I will try to convince you of the merits of doing so in the future. Hopefully too, you will have amassed a number of fantastic images to make a book, posters for the walls of your home, or for your portfolio. Most importantly though, the measure of success will be that you had a great holiday, with great people in a stunning wildlife area.

DRs Expeditions

2010

March: Luangwa Emerald Season

May: Madikwe

June: Sayari Migration

September: Masai Migration

October: Botswana

2011

March: Luangwa Emerald Season

April: Ndotu migration

June: Namibia

Sept: Masai Migration

Oct: Botswana

