



David Rogers Digital Photography Expeditions

Wild Dogs of Madikwe

R12 920 for 4 nights

Get out the big lenses for a trip to Jaci's Safari Camp in Madikwe Game Reserve and let's go looking for the wild dogs.

The 7500-hectare game reserve is on the edge of the Kalahari in South Africa's Northwest Province. It supports bushveld as well as desert species such as springbok and gemsbok, but its biggest success story has been the reintroduction of wild dogs. It remains one of the best places in Africa to see these, the rarest of African predators. Game viewing of black rhino, lion, buffalo, elephant is also great and bird life and fascinating smaller animals abound.

There will be a maximum of 6 people in the vehicle in addition to David Rogers and a specialist Madikwe guide. With 4 rows of seats there's plenty of room.

Jaci's Safari Lodge, is owned by Jan and Jaci van Heteren. This is their home and they have a wonderful team running the camp many of which are shareholders in the operation. The eight tents at Safari Lodge have flaps to let in all the sounds of the bush while offering the solid luxury of a chalet. There is also the Nare Suite (once Jaci's family home) and Safari Suite both of which have swimming pools.

I have visited Jaci's as a journalist for *Getaway* and while researching *Living Landscapes*, *Safari in Style* and *Classic Safari Camps of Africa*. It is a welcoming and wonderful camp and I look forward to return with you.

These trips give everyone from beginners to experienced photographers the chance to fine-tune their expertise and creative techniques. I strongly recommend that photographers wanting to improve their skills invest in an SLR camera and a lens with at least a 300 mm telephoto lens. You can even hire one. Also bring a computer. I use Adobe Lightroom and will be able to give you a trial version on the workshop or you can download it before you arrive. It's fantastic. Something that is proving popular on workshops is making books and at the end of the trip this is also something that we can consider. It is a great deal of fun and

also helps everyone to really fine tune their design, selection and processing skills.





Itinerary

Day one

Check in at Jacis from 14h00* and settle in before we meet at 15h30 on the deck for our first game drive. We will make sure that everyone is familiar with their cameras and comfortable on the vehicle. After a game drive, sundowners and a night drive, we will return to Jaci's for dinner and a good night sleep enjoying the night sounds of the Kalahari.

Day Two, Day Three, Day Four

After a cup of coffee and rusks at 6 am, we go on an early morning game drive through the reserve returning to camp when it starts to heat up about three to four hours after sunrise for brunch and a workshop session. Everyone is encouraged to show at least five images each day... and they don't have to be the best or even perfect but can

be used as a starting point to demonstrate the finer points of composition, work flow, and also how to use Lightroom and Photoshop to enhance your images. David will have trial versions of Lightroom and Photoshop for Mac and PC. Early starts, late nights and hard work in between take their toll and everyone is encouraged to have at least a one hour siesta before we meet again at 15h30 for our afternoon game drive. Dinner is served at 19h30 or shortly thereafter.

Day Five

On the morning of the 11th we end off our four night I recommend that photographers have a basic understanding of aperture and shutter speed, focus settings, file settings and white balance so that they can focus attention on the wildlife and the opportunities at hand. If these terms all sound new and confusing talk to me before the trip. My tutorial called "10 things you need to know" has exercises that will get you up and running in no time safari with our 10th game drive and have a final slap up meal before check out at 11h00.

And then ...

After the trip you will have great images to print, combine into a book, or put on a wall, and most importantly, new skills to take with you to your next safari.

Important Notes

- The rates include guiding, accommodation, all meals and laundry. Drinks, R50 entrance to the reserve and tips are extra.
- If you would like to extend your trip by a day or two the cost is R2400 per person.
- * If you would like lunch on day of arrival there is a charge of R95.
- It is a four-hour drive from Johannesburg and road transfers can be arranged. Flights leave ORT for Madikwe at 10h00 and 13h00 and return at 11h30 and 14h30. The fare is R1980 in and R2010 out.

10 Top tips

- **Enthusiasm** is vital. If you are prepared to work hard, then you will be able to take great photographs. Anticipate the action.
- When the game viewing is not great, focus on flowers or details. Keep **thinking** about new angles, lenses and options.
- **Understand** how to use aperture and shutter priority, change ISO, and to use your focus, exposure and compensation settings.
- Think **design**. Remember the 1/3 rule, get in close, look for leading lines and remember a picture has foreground, background and middle ground.
- Keep **sharp** by shooting at high shutter speeds and by using a beanbag or tripod to keep steady.
- When shooting wildlife don't be afraid to fill cards but make sure that you **select** the gems and don't show all.
- Just about every creature looks more impressive when photographed at **eye level** or lower.
- Get the best **equipment** that you can afford. If you don't own a fast wildlife lens (f2,8 or f4 through the zoom) consider hiring one.
- Shoot in **RAW**. You will get more from your images if you process in a program like Lightroom.
- Have **fun**.



About David Rogers

David has been photographing professionally for more than 20 years. He has illustrated and written 100s of magazine articles about its wild places for *Getaway*, *Africa Geographic*, *Geo*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Times*. He has also written, photographed and published books that include *Southern Africa Living Landscape*, *Zambia Landscapes* and seven titles in the *Safari in Style* Series. This is his 5th year leading photographic safaris. He is a commercial photographer specialising in the travel industry. For more go to www.davidrogers.co.za.

Other photographic workshops with David Rogers that still have space.

Serengeti Western Corridor 1 - 7 June
Masai Mara Migration 12 - 19 September 2010
One-on-one workshops

Book now to avoid disappointment