

DRY SEASON 2022

# SABI SANDS

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHIC SAFARI

23 - 29 MAY 2022



## ABOUT SABI SANDS

The most famous private game reserve of all. Sabi Sands Game Reserve, adjacent to South Africa's flagship Kruger National Park, offers a safari experience found nowhere else in the world. Game viewing possibilities are simply unparalleled, including the much sought after 'Big 5'. Add a fantastic range of luxury lodges suiting all tastes and an African dream safari is born. There are no fences between Kruger National Park and Sabi Sands Game Reserve, so wildlife roams freely in a huge natural environment.

The Sabi Sands is in particular well known for its amazing leopard sightings. The most elusive animal of the Big 5 is frequently spotted when going on a game drive in the reserve. As such, Sabi Sands offers the ultimate photographic safari one can think of. You can be certain to return home with some absolutely stunning pictures and memories. Besides the Big 5, other game species occur in great numbers, among which are over 300 bird species. Sabi Sands possibly makes the best South African safari destination for wildlife enthusiasts, photographers and bird watchers alike.



## PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDANCE

Game drives are conducted throughout the year at optimum viewing times when game activity is generally at its peak, i.e. early morning and late afternoon into evening. The morning safari departs at sunrise, and the evening drive leaves late enough in the afternoon for guests to enjoy a bush sunset and the opportunity to view nocturnal animals after dark.

Your photographic host will be Samuel Cox, who has been photographing Africa's wildlife for over a decade and is very familiar with the offerings of the Greater Kruger region. He will accompany you on every game drive and ensure that you get the best out of every photographic opportunity, making sure your technical and creative skills are being pushed so that you can return home with a new portfolio of fantastic images.

In between game drives he will be available to help with one-on-one photographic tuition; whether it's camera based, editing or simply discussing the ethics and artistry of photography. Sam has spent years teaching wildlife photography and conservation, so has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share.

Your game drives will be conducted by one of the local field guides with plenty of experience and knowledge of the flora and fauna of the area. They will be the one sharing animal information to help build your knowledge and appreciation of everything you come across. This, plus Sam's photographic guidance, means you get the best of both worlds for an unparalleled photographic safari experience in one of South Africa's best wildlife viewing areas.



## ACCOMMODATION

Our home-away-from home will be Elephant Plains Game Lodge, a world-renowned lodge situated in the northern part of the world-famous Sabi Sand game reserve. This stunning location and lodge offers guests the opportunity for excellent Big 5 game viewing across two daily game drives and optional bush walks.

The property has been in the same family for the past 57 years and is situated on the dry Manyeleti riverbed, overlooking an open area and watering hole. The main lodge houses the reception area, dining areas, lounge, bar & wine cellar, as well as a curio shop. Facilities include two swimming pools, a gym and games room.

You will be staying in an elegant and luxurious rondavel, which are set in the beautifully landscaped garden of the original family holiday camp and one can still feel the old bushveld charm upon entering. The rondavels have sundecks, en-suite bathrooms, air conditioning, overhead fans, mini bars, tea/coffee facilities, mosquito nets and electronic safes.

Mealtimes are sumptuous affairs, with a combination of international cuisine and South African specialities. Breakfast and lunch are enjoyed in the dining room, or on the pool deck, overlooking the open area. Dinner is served around a log fire in the boma, whilst enjoying the mystical nocturnal sounds under the African sky.



# ITINERARY

## DAY ONE:

Sam will meet you at Arrivals at Eastgate airport in Hoedspruit on the morning of Monday 23rd May.

From there you will be transported via minibus to your lodge in Sabi Sands. This drive is approximately 2 hours long and we aim to arrive in the early afternoon for some lunch and to ensure enough time for people to settle in, take in their new surroundings and relax before heading out for the first of many gamedrives.



## ITINERARY

### DAY TWO - SIX:

Most days will follow the same routine.

Game drives depart at sunrise to make sure we get the best lighting conditions for photography. Animals are also most active during this time of the day, so it would be crazy to miss out on this time in nature. We will stop for a coffee break before heading back for a mid-late morning breakfast back at the lodge.

In between drives is your free time. Sam will be available for photographic tuition and guidance, offering private as well as group sessions depending on the needs and wants of all guests. If, however, you're looking for more of a holiday vibe, take the time to enjoy relaxing in your rondavel, take a dip in the pool and try different cocktails and drinks at the bar.

At roughly 15:30pm we will head out with our field guide in our private vehicle looking for wildlife. A couple of hours in to the drive we will take a moment to enjoy the sunset with a drink, before looking for nocturnal animals and heading back to the lodge for dinner.



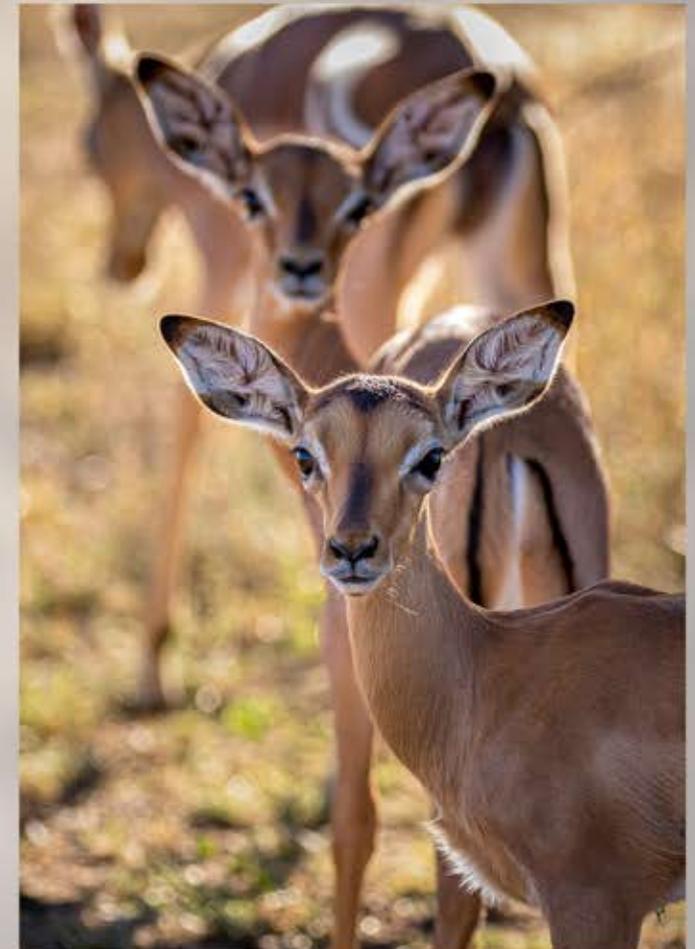
## ITINERARY

### DAY SEVEN:

After a final morning game drive and quick breakfast, we will be departing the lodge at approximately 10:00am to head back to Eastgate airport and aim to arrive back in Hoedspruit early afternoon.

This should be plenty of time for people to say goodbye and check in for their internal flights or to rent a car and carry on exploring the Kruger region in their own way.

We do heartily recommend spending an additional few days or a week self-driving and exploring Kruger National Park - of which we can give advice and help plan!

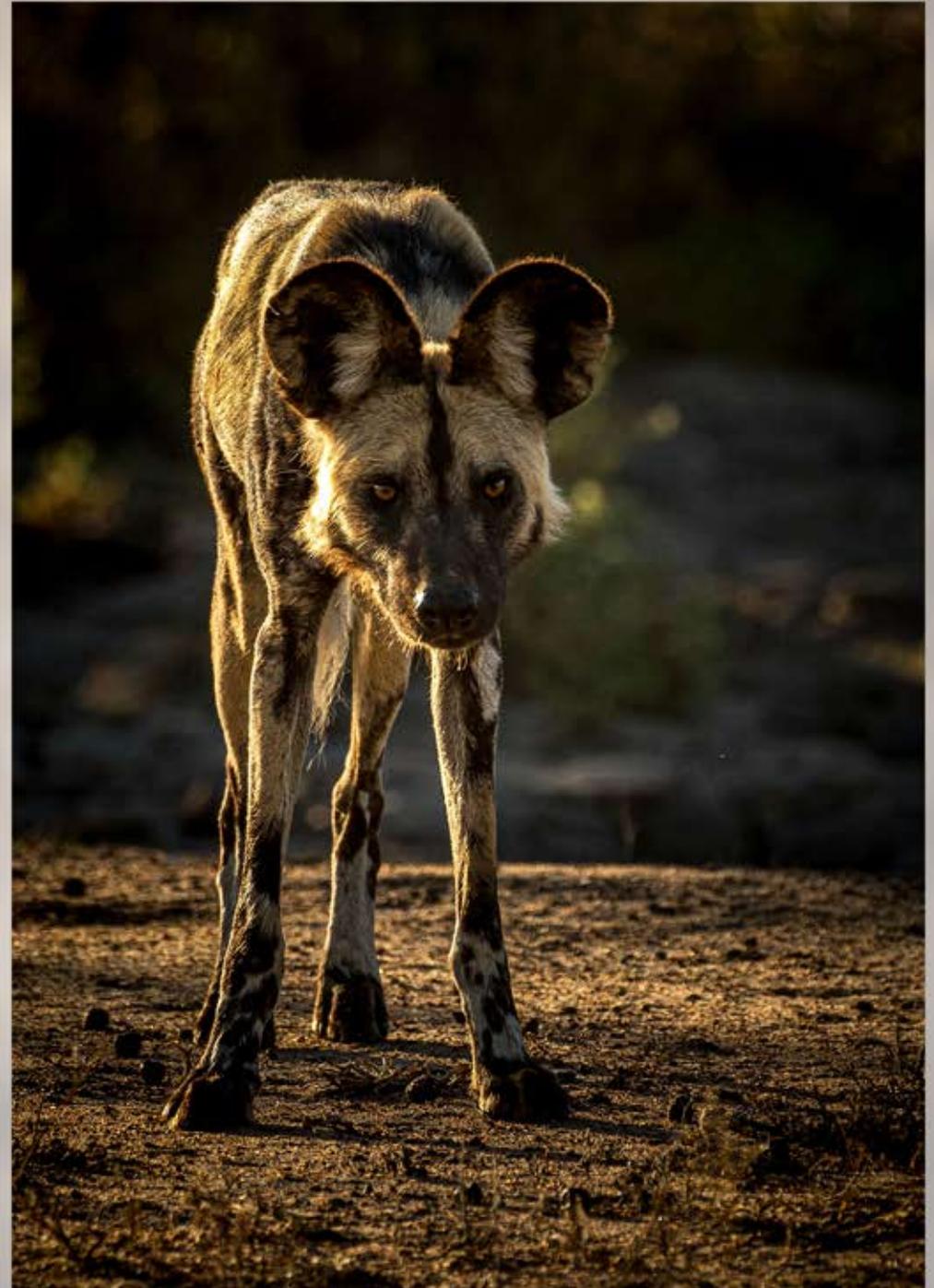


## **I N C L U D E D**

- Road transfer from Hoedspruit to Sabi Sands
- Six nights accommodation (shared accommodation)
- All meals, tea and coffee
- Twice daily game drives on private group vehicle
- Optional late-morning guided bushwalks
- Photographic guidance and tuition throughout
- All reserve and conservation fees
- Return transfer from Sabi Sands to Hoedspruit

## **E X C L U D E D**

- Flights / travel to Hoedspruit from country or province of origin
- All drinks from the bar
- Laundry service
- Travel / health insurance
- Items of a personal nature
- Tips for lodge staff and guide
- Rented or borrowed camera / computer equipment



# WHAT TO BRING

## PHOTOGRAPHY

(recommended)

- Mirrorless camera or DSLR
- Telephoto or zoom lens
- Wide angle lens
- Plenty of batteries and memory cards
- Laptop with Adobe Lightroom classic
- External hard-drive
- Memory card reader (if needed)
- All charging cables and power adaptors



## OTHER

- Comfortable clothing (Neutral colours are best)
- Fleece or warm jacket
- Beanie, scarf & gloves (it can be cold due to the wind chill factor)
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sunglasses, Hat & Sunblock
- Travel / Health insurance
- Insect repellent
- Cash (Rand) for tips
- \*\*Any chronic medication



## EXTRA INFORMATION

### MALARIA:

Sabi Sands is in an area that is considered as low risk for Malaria. However, it is recommended that you do talk to a medical practitioner about anti-malarial medication.

### WATER:

The tap water at the lodge is safe, however it is recommended for foreign visitors to avoid drinking it as mineral and chemical changes may cause stomach upsets. It's perfectly fine for washing and brushing teeth etc.

### TRAVEL AND MEDICAL INSURANCE:

We do require all guests to have valid travel insurance during their stay with us, and that we do need to know certain information before you depart. This is usually just the company name, policy number and emergency contact number, should an emergency happen.

### WORKING WITH WILD ANIMALS:

Whilst we're striving to have an incredible time, our priority is always the health, safety and wellbeing of our guests. Naturally, we need to remember at all times that we are working with wild animals and must respect the decisions made by the field guide, lodge management and / or the RAW Photographic lead guide.

### INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS:

Please make sure your travel plans and flights align so that you arrive at Eastgate Airport (Hoedspruit) in time to be able to make the meeting point. We aim to leave Hoedspruit by 12:00pm, so it might be worth considering catching an earlier flight, even the day before and overnighing in Hoedspruit to ensure you're not pushed for time or miss the meeting. For departure flights at the end of the trip, please make sure they're mid-afternoon flights as we won't be arriving back at the airport until early afternoon (but delays can happen).

## PRICES

Group size is strictly limited to a maximum of six guests to ensure space and comfort on game drive vehicles and efficient and plentiful tuition.

Cost in GBP per person:

**£2,950**

based on 2x people sharing per room

**£3,350**

single supplement



## BOOKING

In order to book your spot on this photographic safari, please simply get in touch with us at RAW Photographic via our website, e-mail or by directly messaging us on any of our social media platforms as listed below and we look forward to chatting with you about this incredible adventure!

Website:

[www.raw-photographic.com](http://www.raw-photographic.com)

E-Mail:

[info@raw-photographic.com](mailto:info@raw-photographic.com)

Instagram:

[@raw.photographic](https://www.instagram.com/raw.photographic)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/rawphotographicexperiences](https://www.facebook.com/rawphotographicexperiences)

