



# Baobabs & Stars

2024

Photo Workshop Safari

# Letter From the Team

At Tusk Photo, we pride ourselves on providing exceptional safari experiences, where every detail is carefully curated to ensure your journey is nothing short of extraordinary. Our team of expert guides, who possess an intimate knowledge of the local wildlife and ecosystems, will be by your side, ready to share their insights and help you capture unbelievable photos.

Imagine exploring the vast savannahs, witnessing the majestic herds of elephants in Amboseli, or immersing yourself in the remarkable biodiversity of the Serengeti. Picture yourself standing in awe as you witness the raw power of lions on the hunt, or capturing the elegance of a leopard as it prowls through the golden grasslands. With Tusk Photo, these extraordinary moments will become a reality.

We understand that photography is more than just a hobby for you; it's a way to express your creativity and preserve memories that will last a lifetime. That's why we go the extra mile to ensure that you have the best opportunities to capture those unique shots. From providing expert guidance on camera settings and composition to positioning our vehicles strategically for the perfect angle, we are dedicated to helping you achieve your photography goals.

But a Tusk Safari is not just about wildlife and photography; it's about creating cherished memories and forging lifelong connections. Our team is committed to providing you with personalized attention, exceptional service, and a warm and welcoming atmosphere throughout your journey. We want you to feel like part of our Tusk family, sharing laughter, stories, and the sheer joy of exploring the best that nature has to offer.

Allow us to take you on a journey of discovery, where you will witness nature's wonders, capture breathtaking photographs, and create memories that will stay with you forever.

Please feel free to reach out to our friendly team for any further information or to discuss your specific requirements. We are here to assist you every step of the way. We can't wait to welcome you to the Tusk Photo family and share this incredible experience with you.

The Tusk Team



# Overview

Join us on a remarkable journey through the Limpopo Bushveld for our Baobab and Stars Photographic Workshop Safari.

This unique tour combines the thrill of wildlife and landscape photography with the enchantment of astrophotography. Immerse yourself in the captivating beauty of the African bush as you learn from professional photographers and experienced guides.

From majestic baobab trees to breathtaking starry skies, this workshop will sharpen your skills and ignite your passion for capturing stunning images.

Explore the diverse landscapes of the Limpopo region. As night falls, venture into the magical world of astrophotography, where you'll capture awe-inspiring shots of the star-filled African sky.

With comfortable accommodations, expert guidance, and unforgettable experiences, this workshop safari promises to elevate your photography skills to new heights.



# What You Can Expect

Join Tusk Photo on an extraordinary photographic safari, where we invite you to delve into the magical realm of Baobab trees and the mesmerizing beauty of astro photography. This exclusive workshop offers a unique opportunity to capture awe-inspiring images that will transport you to the heart of Africa's soul-stirring landscapes.

There is arguably no other tree that evokes a stronger sense of "being in Africa" than the iconic Baobab tree. These ancient giants, with their weathered and torn appearances, stand as towering sentinels of time, each limb resembling outstretched hands that have witnessed centuries of history. As you stand next to these massive trees, dwarfing everything around them, you'll feel an indescribable connection to the natural world. There's a spiritual and moving quality that emanates from their presence, igniting your passion for photography. However, what truly sets this workshop apart is the opportunity to capture these Baobabs at night, adorned by the celestial wonders of the Milky Way and surrounding stars. Imagine the surreal beauty of these ancient giants silhouetted against a backdrop of glittering constellations, creating truly captivating compositions that will leave you in awe.

At Tusk Photo, we understand the significance of timing and atmosphere in creating exceptional photographs. That's why we have meticulously chosen the colder winter months for our workshop, providing ideal conditions for capturing breath-taking nightscapes. The crisp winter air not only enhances star visibility but also ensures sharper details and stunning clarity in your images. Additionally, during these months, the Milky Way is at its most vibrant, offering a celestial spectacle that will elevate your photography to new heights.

Throughout the workshop, our team of seasoned photographers will be by your side, sharing their wealth of knowledge, techniques, and artistic insights. From composition and exposure settings to long-exposure techniques and astrophotography, you'll receive personalized guidance to help you master the art of capturing Baobabs and stars in their full glory. Whether you're a seasoned photographer or a passionate beginner, our workshops cater to all skill levels, fostering growth and creativity.

As night falls, the workshop takes on a whole new dimension. Through dedicated sessions focused on night photography, you'll learn how to effectively use artificial light, experiment with long exposures, and harness the beauty of light painting techniques, revealing the interplay of shadows, textures, and celestial wonders in your images.

Join us for the Baobabs and Stars Workshop and unlock the secrets of photographing these ancient giants under the celestial canopy. Book your spot now and embark on an unforgettable photographic adventure with Tusk Photo.



# Where You Will Stay

Maswiri Lodge, where breath-taking views of the plains and bushveld await you in this pristine piece of unspoiled African beauty, serves as our base for this Workshop Safari. Nestled amidst this natural wonderland, the lodge offers a range of exceptional facilities designed to enhance your stay and immerse you in the enchanting surroundings.



Accommodation at Maswiri Lodge consists of five en-suite air-conditioned chalets, each providing a comfortable and luxurious retreat. Set around a magnificent Baobab tree, the chalets offer a sense of tranquility and seclusion. You'll find yourself surrounded by a beautifully manicured garden, creating a serene atmosphere that invites relaxation and connection with nature.

For stunning panoramic views and moments of reflection, the lookout deck provides the perfect vantage point. Take in the expansive vistas, marvel at the colours of the African sky, and allow the beauty of the surroundings to captivate your senses.

The communal dining room area offers a warm and inviting space for guests to come together and enjoy delicious meals prepared by our talented culinary team. Share stories of your adventures, indulge in delectable cuisine, and embrace the sense of camaraderie that comes from sharing extraordinary experiences in the wild.

One of the highlights of the lodge is the abundance of magnificent bushveld birds that grace the area. Immerse yourself in the symphony of their melodic calls, observe their vibrant colours, and revel in the presence of these captivating creatures. The harmonious blend of birdlife adds an extra layer of beauty and serenity to your stay.

At Maswiri Lodge, they pride themselves on providing a haven where guests can unwind, reconnect with nature, and immerse themselves in the untamed beauty of the African bush. Discover the perfect balance of comfort and wilderness, where breathtaking views, luxurious accommodations, and exceptional facilities create an unforgettable experience. Book your Workshop Safari to this magical place now!

# Dates | Costs | Prices

Dates	Cost	Spaces	Nights
2024-06-01 to 2024-06-04	R15500	8	3
2024-06-04 to 2024-06-07	R15500	8	3
2024-07-01 to 2024-07-04	R15500	8	3
2024-07-04 to 2024-07-07	R15500	8	3

## Cost:

Our safari experience is priced at R15500 per person. Please note that any bank charges incurred during the payment process are not covered by Tusk Photo. We kindly request the full amount indicated on the invoice, including any fees imposed by Paypal if you choose to use this payment method.

## Deposit:

To secure your reservation, a 50% deposit of the full price is required within 14 days of making your booking. Once we receive your deposit, your booking will be confirmed. Please make sure to complete this step within the given timeframe to secure your spot.

## Balance:

The remaining balance is due at least 9 weeks prior to the safari. If you are making a booking within 9 weeks of the safari, the full price will be payable at the time of booking.

## Cancellation Policy:

We understand that plans can change, and in the event of a cancellation, the following fees will apply unless Tusk Photo is able to fill your safari space:

- Cancellation more than 120 days prior to departure: 10% of the full price
- Cancellation 90 - 119 days prior to departure: 40% of the full price
- Cancellation 60 - 89 days prior to departure: 70% of the full price
- Cancellation less than 60 days prior to departure: 100% of the full price

Please note: Your travel plans are made entirely at your own risk, and Tusk Photo cannot be held responsible for any flight cancellations, disruptions, or delays that may occur. We recommend considering travel insurance to protect your investment and provide peace of mind.

# Itinerary

## **DAY 1:**

- Arrival at Maswiri Lodge
- Light lunch
- Night photography workshop and camera setup
- Afternoon landscape photography drive
- Dinner at the lodge
- Night photography session with Baobabs and stars

## **DAY 2 & 3:**

- Morning sunrise landscape photography
- Breakfast at the lodge
- Session on developing night photography photos and landscape images
- Lunch
- Afternoon photo shoot with Baobabs
- Focus on artistic high key images of the trees
- Dinner at the lodge
- Night photography session in the bush

## **DAY 4:**

- The option of an early morning photographic session
- Breakfast at the lodge
- Farewell and departure



# What You Get

## **INCLUDED:**

- Services of Tusk Photo host
- Accommodation
- All Meals
- Local beers, wines and soft drinks

## **EXCLUDED:**

- Visas fees (if applicable)
- Telephone calls
- Travel to and from Maswiri lodge
- Expenses of a personal nature

# Photography and Gear

Camera Techniques we will be focusing in:

- Landscape photography
- Stars / Night / Milky way photography
- Painting with Light
- Highkey photography
- Time lapse photography (optional)
- Camera Trap photography (optional)

It is advisable to bring the following camera equipment for our night photography:

- 1 or 2 Camera bodies (a backup will mean peace of mind) with spare batteries.
- A wide-angle lens with an effective focal length of around 14mm with an aperture opening of f2.8 will be ideal for our night photography. 14mm will enable you to capture more of the stars and milky way as opposed to a lens of say 24mm and f2.8 lens will mean that you will be able to photograph within acceptable ISO levels and be able to deal with noise issues.
- Other landscape lenses such as 24-70mm and 70-200mm lenses
- A good sturdy tripod (one that can fold flat to the ground is recommended is highly recommended)
- If your tripod cannot open up to ground level we suggest a Ground pod / Skimmer plate for low angle star and milky way photography.
- A good sturdy ball head is essential for our purposes.
- In terms of triggers we recommend either a remote release cable for your camera or a radio transceiver such as a Pocket Wizard Plus III with camera cable to trigger your camera.
- Computer or Notebook with Lightroom / Photoshop is vital for your workshop sessions.
- Optional Extra: A separate Intervalometer for Time Lapse techniques should your camera not have a built in intervalometer



# Tour Info

## INSURANCE

- **Travel Insurance:**

While it is highly unlikely, there is a possibility of scheduled flights in and out of your destination being delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. To provide peace of mind and cover any potential flight disruptions or missed connections, we strongly recommend purchasing additional travel insurance.

- **Medical Insurance:**

For your safety and well-being, we highly recommend having medical insurance that covers unforeseen medical emergencies and evacuation. Please let us know in your booking form whether you have taken out any medical insurance for this safari.

## PASSPORTS AND CUSTOMS

- Passports are required by all foreign visitors and must be valid for 6 months after the intended length of stay. Please ensure that there are at least two blank pages per country to be visited.
- It is advisable to declare any cameras, lenses, laptops and other valuable items when travelling. We recommend keeping a detailed list of all items including serial numbers and descriptions. This makes the customs process that much quicker as all that is generally required is for the customs official to stamp the document.
- Please check with your local Embassy whether a visa is required prior to entering into South Africa.

## MONEY AND CURRENCY

- The currency used in South African Rand.

## HEALTH

- If you suffer from any medical conditions that may affect you or your participation on this safari, please inform us about this on your booking form.
- You are responsible for bringing any prescription medication you may need. We accept no responsibility for any medical conditions, illnesses or related incidents that may occur during your safari, even if we have been fully informed about your condition.
- Should you require additional advice, we suggest you contact your local travel clinic in South Africa for consultations. A complete list of Netcare Travel Clinics is available on [www.travelclinic.co.za](http://www.travelclinic.co.za)

## LANGUAGES

English is spoken.

## DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

We understand the importance of accommodating diverse dietary needs, and our team is dedicated to ensuring that we can cater to most dietary requirements. Please provide us with any specific dietary needs in your booking form.

## POWER AND ELECTRICITY

All rooms are air conditioned with 220v available 24h for charging etc



## CLIMATE

Our safaris are schedule over the coldest winter months. These conditions are best for clear skies and open bush surroundings with little to no chance of rain over that period.

Temperatures at night can range from 5C - 15C  
Day Temperatures can range between 10C - 30C



## WHAT TO PACK

### CLOTHING:

As a general guide, comfortable, casual wash and wear clothes are recommended.

The most practical items to pack for safari are:

- Khaki, green, beige and neutral colours are recommended.
- Shirts with long sleeves (even in summer, as protection from the sun and mosquitoes)
- T shirts
- Shorts or a light skirt, Jeans or safari trousers for evenings and cooler days
- A jacket, fleece or sweater is recommended for early morning and evening activities.
- Comfortable walking shoes and/or sandals
- Sun block, sunglasses, hat, insect repellent, moisturizer and lip-salve are all essentials
- During winter months bring a good thermal windbreaker jacket, gloves, beanies and scarfs.  
We trust Craghoppers and Outsider Co. for our winter safari wear.
- Lip protection against wind and sunburn.

### EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES:

- Water bottle
- Torch and or headlamp
- Spare batteries
- NB: a small ground sheet to sit and lay on while you are photographing low angle shots of the trees. We will all be doing low angle photography so this is important!

### CONNECTIVITY & EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

There is Cellular & Data connectivity at Maswiri

Maswiri Lodge does offer limited free WiFi.

Our Tusk Photo Emergency number:

Tel: +27 12 761 3737



# Indemnity

Tusk Photo and its staff prioritize your safety and wellbeing during your safari; however, please be aware that we cannot accept liability for any incidents, including but not limited to accidents, loss, or property damage. By completing the Safari Booking form, you acknowledge the inherent risks associated with travel and agree to indemnify Tusk Photo against any claims or liabilities that may arise.

While this document provides comprehensive information, it is not exhaustive. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office. Please note that the information contained herein is correct at the time of compilation to the best of our knowledge.



**We Are Excited To Host You on Your  
Dream Photographic Safari!**

