

# SOUTH AFRICA PHOTO SAFARI





Join us for a Big Five photography safari in South Africa.

We'll be based in the stunning Timbavati Game Reserve, an area of private reserves that offer truly exclusive wildlife encounters – some of the best in Africa. The area is particularly known for its brilliant sightings of the otherwise elusive leopard – but you can also expect lions, elephants, rhinos, buffalos, and much more.

We'll stay in a lodge in the middle of the reserve, surrounded by wildlife and beautiful scenery. During our twice-daily game drives, all guided by expert local guides and trackers, you can expect to photograph the African Big Five (lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino, and elephant) – and a whole lot more.

Throughout your stay, you'll enjoy the expert tutoring of wildlife photographer Alan Hewitt, an official Fujifilm UK ambassador, who will help you hone your photography skills. We'll have a maximum group size of 6, ensuring that everyone will receive personal tutoring that suits their level.

If you're keen for an extended wildlife photography adventure, you can combine this trip with our photo safari in Botswana. This is based in the stunning Tuli Game Reserve, where wide open landscapes and some unique wildlife encounters will offer an equally exciting but totally different photographic experience. (There's a discount if you join both trips!)





## HIGHLIGHTS:

This photo safari takes place in South Africa's Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, one of the continent's premier wildlife destinations. Bordering the iconic Kruger National Park, Timbavati offers an exclusive and immersive safari experience, with vast landscapes, rich biodiversity, and minimal tourist traffic. The reserve is renowned for its exceptional sightings of the Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo) with leopards being a particular highlight due to their relaxed behavior around vehicles.

The area's open savannahs, riverine woodlands, and waterholes provide a dynamic backdrop for wildlife photography, especially during golden-hour game drives when the light is at its most dramatic.

Staying within the reserve at Umlani Bushcamp, guests are surrounded by nature at all times. The camp's unfenced setting allows wildlife to roam freely, offering spontaneous photographic moments right from your doorstep. Whether you're capturing elephants at a waterhole, hyenas at their den, or the quiet beauty of the bush at sunrise, Timbavati delivers a rare blend of intimacy, variety, and photographic potential that makes every day in the field unforgettable.





## PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE:

The photographic experience on this South Africa photo safari is immersive, dynamic, and tailored for wildlife enthusiasts who want to elevate their craft.

Each day brings golden-hour game drives through Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, where you'll have the chance to photograph iconic species like lions, leopards, elephants, and rhinos in stunning natural light.

With expert guidance from a professional wildlife photographer, you'll learn how to anticipate animal behavior, compose compelling images, and make the most of changing light and movement in the field.

Back at camp, the learning continues with image reviews, editing sessions, and creative discussions that help you refine your style and build a cohesive portfolio. The small group setting ensures personalized attention and a supportive environment for growth, whether you're just starting out or looking to push your skills further.

From dramatic action shots to intimate wildlife portraits, this safari is designed to help you tell powerful visual stories and return home with images that truly resonate.



## YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDE:

At Penda, we collaborate with only the best professional photographic guides, chosen for their expertise, teaching ability, and commitment to your experience. They prioritise creating exceptional photographic opportunities and adapt their guidance to suit your individual skills and goals, whether you're a beginner or a seasoned photographer.

For full details about the specific guide leading this tour, please visit the [tour page](#) on our website.



## ACCOMMODATION & FACILITIES

We'll stay at Umlani Bushcamp, a lovely lodge in the private game reserve.

While the campe has an authentic and rustic African charm, the lodge is very comfortable and has a number of facilities. Set within a picturesque setting, your room will be a thatched hut with comfortable beds, en-suite facilities and an open-air bush shower. You'll have hot water and electricity. The lodge has a bush bar overlooking a waterhole, a pool and a traditonal African boma (outside dining area).

Since we're in the middle of a game reserve, wildlife roams around the camp and some photographic opportunities might occur while you're relaxing or eating a meal. There is also WiFi at the lodge but don't count on it being very fast.

Please note fees are on a sharing basis (same sex). If you're interested in a single supplement, please let us know.



## MEALS

Three wholesome meals will be cooked for us every day.

If you have any food allergies or specific dietary requirements, please let us know in advance. We will do everything we can to accommodate your needs. Teas, coffees, and bottled water will be provided for you. Alcoholic and soft drinks are not included, but you can buy them at the lodge. You can pay for them in cash (either ZAR, Pula, or USD) or by credit card.



## RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

We recommend the following equipment. If you'd like to discuss your specific gear, just reach out, and we'll be happy to advise.

- DSLR or mirrorless camera
- Range of lenses; ideally ranging from wide angle for landscape to telephoto for wildlife
- Tripod or bean bag, plus a monopod (useful in game drive vehicles)
- Sturdy camera bag
- Enough spare batteries and memory cards (you'll be able to charge your batteries at our accommodation)
- Hard drive and a laptop / external drive to download and store your photographs on should you fill your memory cards.
- Laptop with editing software



## DATES & RATES

**FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION  
ON DATES, RATES, AND  
AVAILABILITY, PLEASE VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE**

This includes:

- Accommodation
- All meals
- Airport transfers to and from Hoedspruit
- All game drives and walking safaris
- Photographic tutoring
- All entrance fees

This does not include:

- International flights to Johannesburg
- Travel Insurance





## WHY PENDA

Everything is built around photography.

- Our photography tours are created by photographers, for photographers. Our itineraries are designed around creating the best possible photographic opportunities. We'll make sure to bring you to the right place, at the right moment.
- We're travel experts. We love travel, and have many years of experience in creating and running tours, workshops, volunteer programs, and safaris. We know what makes a great holiday, and will match every person with their perfect experience.
- Our photography tours are led by top photographers. Each photo tour or safari is guided by an experienced professional photographer, who is dedicated to creating the best possible experience for you by taking you to the right spots, and tutoring you at the same time.
- We respect what we photograph. We're committed to exploring and adhering to the most ethical ways of photographing new places.
- When you join one of our photography adventures, we'll plant a tree on your behalf through our partnership with Greenpop - a nonprofit restoring ancient forests and creating green spaces across Sub-Saharan Africa. You'll even receive a certificate with the GPS coordinates of your tree







## CONTACT US

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