

# WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY ADVENTURE

WITH CRAIG JONES · MASAI MARA · KENYA

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7 days photographic safari



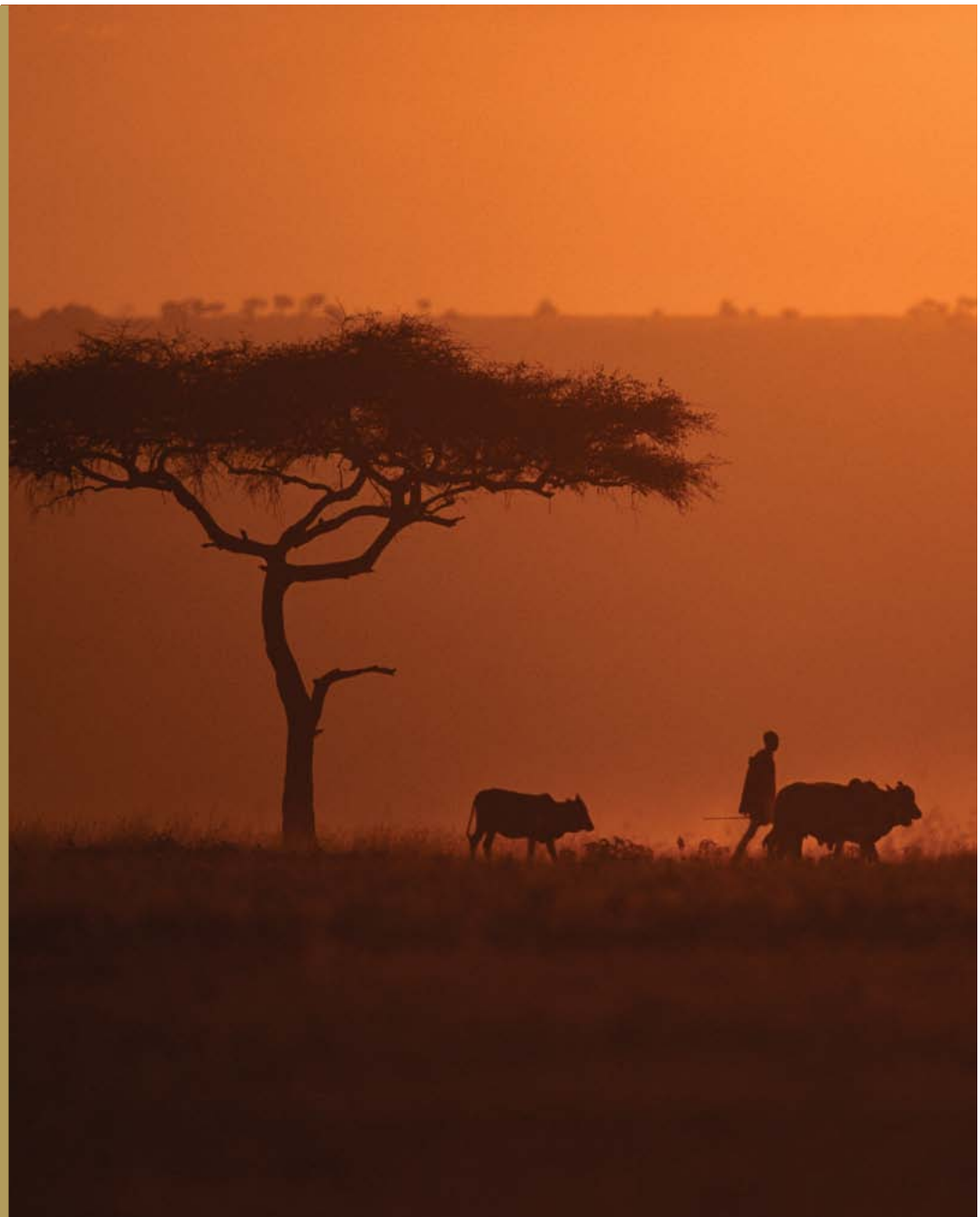
CRAIG JONES WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

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**Kenya** is home to an unrivalled abundance and diversity of wildlife, from the vast herds of Wildebeest and Zebra that crowd the Masai Mara, to the Elephants that wander Tsavo's brick-red lands, the beautiful region of East Africa still protects some of the largest herds left on the continent and gives a rare glimpse into the Africa of old. Kenya is also a predator country, the abundance of prey supporting Lions, Cheetahs, Leopards and Wild Dogs, plus numerous eagles and other birds that move south into the country to escape the northern winter. This abundance of life is backed by an equally spectacular landscape, the vast flat lands of the Mara contrasting with the rolling dry hills of Tsavo and the acacia woodlands of Amboseli, the latter watched over by the towering snow-capped peak of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa.

The vast flat lands of the Masai Mara is one of the richest game areas in Africa. Photographically, it provides a very subject rich environment whatever your interest, the big five, birds, tribal culture, even insects or reptile.

Travel to the *Mara North Conservancy* and try your hand at photographing the culture and biodiversity of the migration of wildebeeste with guidance by professional wildlife photographer, Craig Jones.



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Craig Jones is a professional wildlife photographer and naturalist whose love of the wild goes back to childhood. His passion and love for his subject is matched by his talent not only to take photographs capturing that moment in time but to work with other people to help them to develop their art and share their experience. "The beauty of photographing wildlife is that it is always changing and evolving, encountering the unexpected. In this environment the photographer must learn to work with these changing environmental conditions and behaviours, and the result cannot always be predicted."

With your own private guide and Craig's field craft skills, they will help you capture those moments from nature at the same time letting you see and learn about how the subject conducts their life within the wild. Craig will accompany you or your party throughout all of your safari to show you this amazing place on earth, but also help you improve in all the aspects of being a wildlife photographer.

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Your home for the week in the Masai Mara is at the beautiful *Serian Camp and Nkorombo Mobile camp*.

**Serian** - (meaning “peaceful, calm or serene” in Maa) is the charismatic bush home of Alex Walker, filmmaker and guide in the Masai Mara. Serian is set in a secluded valley. It’s eight, stylish ‘marquees’ overlook the waters of the Mara River. The furnishings evoke the safaris of a bygone era: the natural colours of woven carpets on hardwood flooring and swathes of cotton setting off the colonial-style furniture and pale canvas walls. Each tent has a bush bathroom, a hand-carved stone bath with river view, and a large veranda from which to enjoy the animals coming to the Mara River.

**Nkorombo Mobile** - The sleeping tents are en-suite “*Selous Style*”. Each simply furnished in traditional safari style, en-suite bathrooms possess flush toilets and bucket showers. The Mess is furnished with candelabras, trunks, tables, Lamu beds, soft cushions and chairs. Meals are often served in different locations throughout the camp and dinner is most often concluded around a roaring campfire that serves as a focal point in colder evenings.



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#### ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

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|-------|---|---|
| DAY 1 | - | Serian – Fly Nairobi – Masai Mara             |
| DAY 2 | - | Serian – gamedrives                           |
| DAY 3 | - | Serian – gamedrives/walks                     |
| DAY 4 | - | Nkorombo Mobile – gamedrives                  |
| DAY 5 | - | Nkorombo Mobile – gamedrives                  |
| DAY 6 | - | Nkorombo Mobile – gamedrives                  |
| DAY 7 | - | transfer to airstrip onward flight to Nairobi |

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## DAY 1

Our Photo-Tour begins with our flight from London to Nairobi, where most of the flights that take off from London land in the morning at Nairobi Airport. From here we fly to our base for the following week - *Serian Camp* - right on the banks of the amazing Mara River. Once unpacked and due to our location the photography starts straight away.

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### NIGHT AT SERIAN



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## DAY 2 - 3

Picked up early to catch the amazing light we will then head out with our driver and me in our fully equipped Landrover into the Mara for our morning Safaris to see the breathtaking spectacular that is the '*Masai Mara Migration*' which is so immense it is called the Great Migration.

The Great Migration is one of the most impressive natural events worldwide, involving an immensity of herbivores some 1,300,000 wildebeests, 360,000 Thomson's gazelles, and 191,000 zebras. These numerous migrants are followed along their annual, circular route by a block of hungry predators, most notably lions and hyena, which has to be one of the most spectacular events in the natural world.

We then head back for breakfast or we can stay out all day in the park with a picnic and refreshments out in the field after which this will take us nicely into the evening and the light for those dusk images with the wildlife around. We head back to our camp after, freshen up for our evening meal and review the day's accounts and images.

We have set aside an exclusive use conservation area of 4,000 acres; this is walking area though there are game trails to the west of the river on the Koiyaki Lemek Conservancy. A significant area is only accessible by foot and you will immediately notice the difference between a vehicle tour and one conducted on foot. Your perception of the bush will change until you get a look at all the smaller things that you miss out on when you are in the car.

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NIGHTS AT SERIAN

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## DAY 4 - 5 - 6

The trip then moves to Serians mobile bush camp - *Nkorombo Mobile Camp*, this is positioned to blend unobtrusively into the surrounding vegetation. The experience at Serian's mobile camp is focused on viewing wildlife, in particular, the migration of Wildebeest and Zebra as they cross the Mara River. You will explore the cool forests and streams of the highlands.

Each day will be new and exciting. Meals in camp will be interspersed with picnics out in the bush. There are no schedules to be met and you are free to make your own timetable on a daily basis.

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### NIGHTS AT NKOROMBO

## DAY 7

After a morning dive to catch the last images from this amazing place, we say goodbye to Kenya and head back to Nairobi for our flight back to the UK.





## Recommended Equipment

You will need to provide your own photographic equipment; lenses ranging from a wide-angle right up to a 500mm will be perfect, ideally with two camera bodies, however, this is not essential. A good tip is to have one camera with a wide-angle and the other camera with your bigger lens, this worked so well for me the last time I was there. A tripod / Monopod and a beanbag are a must, which you can fill up at a lodge with rice, failing that there is a shop on site selling them. Also protection for your camera equipment from the dust and sand is very important, I use a shower cap on the end of my long lens, and a lenscoat cover for the rest of the lens which works perfect.

Africa's weather is very warm and dry at this time of year, so loose fitting, light coloured clothing is ideal, walking trousers where you can turn them into shorts are perfect, a hat is a must have and a good mosquito spray too along with a high sun factor cream. A good all round level of fitness is ideal, but you will not be walking around these places as you are driven in private jeeps so this won't present you with any difficulty health wise.

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