

THE BAOBAB PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPEDITION

Limpopo ~ South Africa

Bookings for the Baobab Expedition on request



THE DESTINATION

The Baobab Expedition is a journey through the furthest north-eastern reaches of the Limpopo Province, an area with a colourful history, millennia-old archaeological foundations and landscapes of great visual impact, saturated with a sense of ancient earth. It is a place defined by scatterings of sandstone hills, baobabs towering over mopane expanses and riparian forests enclosing the Luvuvu and Limpopo Rivers.

From a photographer's perspective, our destinations offer the full spectrum of wildlife and birdlife, landscape, trees, plants and archaeology: - in short all we include under Natural History.



THE EXPEDITION

- This is a self-drive journey and although a 4x4 vehicle will enhance your experience, it is not a prerequisite. Assistance with the renting of vehicles on request.
- The expedition starts at Bateleur Bush Camp in Kruger National Park.
- The expedition ends at Mapungubwe, except for those who add the Tuli / Mashatu Extension to their itinerary.

- The Extension into Botswana's Mashatu /Tuli region starts and ends at the Pont Drift border post.
- Single accommodation is available, but limited.
- Booking 6 – 12 months in advance is essential.
- The maximum number of participants is 8.

THE ITINERARY

- Our journey starts at Bateleur Bush Camp in the far northern part of Kruger National Park. Described as the park's oldest, smallest and friendliest camp, the mood of this place is calm, quiet and boundless - evocative of old-time Kruger. It is secluded and the surrounding area is reserved for our private use. (2 nights)



- On day 3, we travel further north, crossing the Pafuri River to enter what T.V. Bulpin described as a wilderness little trodden by man: a landscape of deep valleys and red-coloured cliffs covered by baobab, fever trees, ironwood, sycamore and strangling fig. Our camp is in the 24000ha private Makuleke concession area. We have now reached the most northern corner of

Kruger where the Limpopo River cuts the borders between South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. (3 nights)

- Exiting Kruger at the Pafuri Gate, we travel westwards through the town of Musina to Mapungubwe National Park. Mapungubwe is in the Limpopo-Shashe basin that is part of the Limpopo Belt, the oldest mobile belt in the world with rocks dating back from 2 700 to 3 700 million years. Subterranean processes and climatic erosion had shaped this primordial landscape of sandstone koppies and cliffs, granite boulders and dolerite dykes. This is the land of elephants and baobabs, harsh and uncompromising in its solitude and beauty. For the next three nights we stay at Mopane Bush Lodge, just outside Mapungubwe. This allows us to access both eastern and western Mapungubwe, as well as the area between the two sections of the park. (4 nights)
- Our journey ends at Mapungubwe, from where you make your way back home.
- The Mashato Extension is optional and for those joining us, we cross the Limpopo at the Pont Drift border into Botswana's Tuli Block. We spend two nights at Mashatu Main Camp OR Tuli Wilderness Camp, depending on availability. Please indicate when you register if you want to include the Tuli / Mashatu Extension. (2 nights)
- We exit Botswana at the Pont Drift border where the expedition ends.



EXPEDITION LEADER & HOST

This bushveld of far-northern Limpopo is a region that expedition leader Lex Hes rates as one of his favourite places in the whole of Africa. This is also where expedition host Anita de Villiers' roots are - "my place of solace that I return to regularly". For both Lex and Anita, this is not the usual safari. It is a journey of the heart and we hope that those who join us will experience it as such.

Lex Hes

Anita de Villiers: Through years of travelling the country as a photojournalist and finding special places and meeting extraordinary people, Anita is able to select destinations and put together photographic

safaris that are “off the beaten track”. It is her privilege to introduce these places to people who prefer roads less travelled. (www.anitadevilliers.co.za)

THE EXPEDITION

- Booking for the Baobab Expedition is on request.
- To ensure availability, booking 6 – 12 months in advance is advisable.
- Groups between two to eight photographers can be accommodated.
- The ideal duration is nine nights, but this is flexible to suit the photographers’ preferred duration.
- Total cost depends on the size of the group and the duration of the expedition.
- Photographers have the opportunity to work under the guidance of a professional photographer

BOOKING:

- The cost (to be advised) is per person. Total cost depends on the size of the group and the duration of the expedition.
- A deposit of 50% secures your reservation. Please note that bookings cannot be held without the payment of a deposit. Early booking (6 – 12 months in advance) is recommended.
- The balance is payable 30 days before commencement of the expedition.
- Internet bank payments are preferred.
- Please request a booking form from Anita if you want to register: adevill@iafrica.com.
- You will also be required to complete several booking forms for the Makuleke Concession Area.
- For cancellations received more than 60 days prior to the first day of the expedition, **50% of the full amount** is refundable unless the vacancy is filled, in which case 25% of the deposit is refundable. For cancellations less than 60 days prior to the workshop, no refund is payable, unless the vacancy is filled, in which case 25% of the deposit will be refunded.
- If the expedition is cancelled for any unforeseen reason, you will be notified and your deposit will be fully refunded. Anita de Villiers Photography does not accept responsibility for any other costs incurred by participants.

Included

- The cost is per person and includes accommodation, meals, expedition fees and game drives (Bateleur, Makuleke & Mapungubwe). At Bateleur and Mapungubwe, we will also do game drives in our own vehicles.

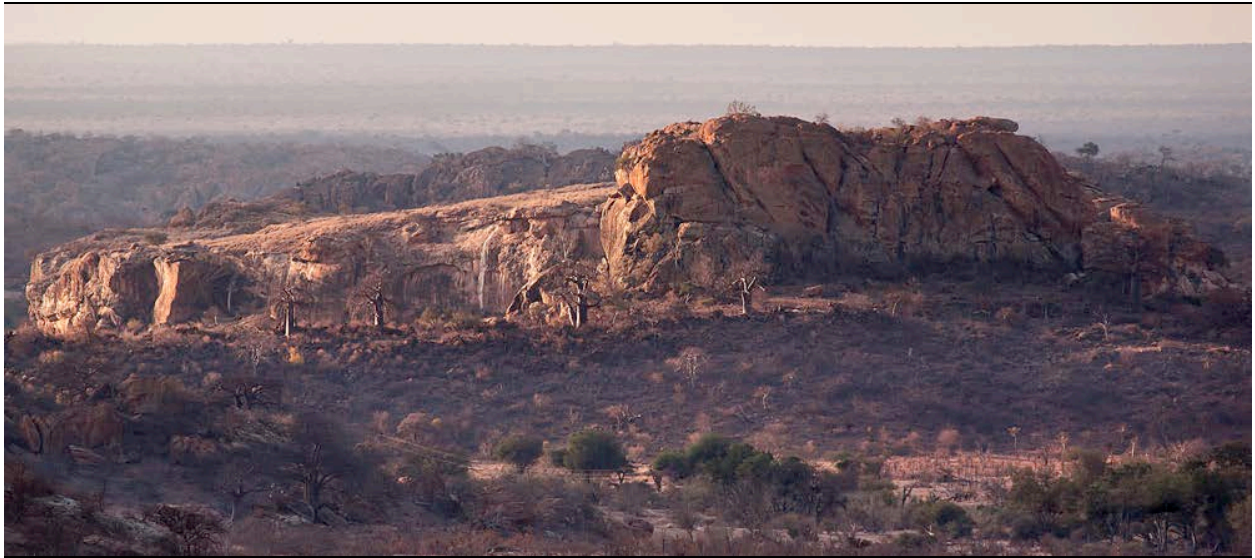
Excluded

- All flights: International flights to and from O.R. Tambo Airport (Johannesburg) as well as internal flights to Phalaborwa. We will assist with arrangements for internal flights.
- SANPARKS entrance fees. We do not always enter Kruger and Mapungubwe as a group. It is recommended that you purchase a WILD CARD from SANPARKS (https://www2.sanparks.org/wild_new/). The card is valid for one year and allows you entry to

all the SANPARKS reserves. Please apply for your card long before the trip, as the process can be rather slow.

- This is a self-drive expedition and your travel cost to, between and from our destinations is excluded. We can assist with arrangements for rental vehicles.
- Please bring your own alcoholic beverages for Bateleur and Makuleke camps. You can restock at Musina on our way to Mapungubwe.
- Snacks, cold drinks and water for the road.
- Gratuities for the camps / lodge staff and guides.

Note: If you want to learn more about our destinations, please request the articles Anita wrote on northern Kruger and Mapungubwe.



All photographs © Anita de Villiers