

Ron Hunter's Adventure Expeditions

Fifteen days, fourteen nights: 12th Sept - 26th Sept 2012

Masai Mara Migration, Kenya, Adventure Safari incorporating a Professional Photographic Workshop.

Max. 12 participants plus guides. Tour leader: Ron Hunter

Australia / Kenya

Wednesday 12th September 2012

Depart Sydney (SYD) on Etihad Airlines flight EY455 at 21:50pm
Arrive Abu Dhabi (AUH), United Arab Emirates at 06:40am

Thursday 13th September 2012

Depart Abu Dhabi (AUH), United Arab Emirates on Etihad Airlines flight EY641 at 09:30am
Arrive Nairobi (NBO), Kenya at 13:20pm

Kenya - Thursday 13th to Wednesday 26th September 2012

Here to greet us will be Peter Craig-Cooper and Emanuel Maria, our wildlife guides and professional photographic instructors, who will guide us in their Photographic Workshop for the next thirteen days.



From the airport we will depart Nairobi in Land Cruisers for Amboseli National Park, around 4-hours comfortable drive from Nairobi, arriving at Amboseli at around 18:00 just in time for "sundowners". We will check-in to our Accommodation at Amboseli, the beautiful 5 star Ol Tukai Game Lodge, here in the shadows of Mt. Kilimanjaro This will be our home for the next three nights. Tonight we will have dinner listening to the sounds of the African plains. (D)



Friday 14th September 2012 (B,L,D)

This morning after a great night's sleep, we will set out early for the first of our game drives and photographic opportunities in the Amboseli National Park. We will return to our lodge before the heat of the day really sets in, time to freshen up, a dip in the swimming pool and then lunch. After lunch we will have a chance to review our images, and for Peter and Emanuel to critique some of these images from this morning's game drive.



We will set out at about 15:00pm for the first of our afternoon game drives in the Amboseli National Park, returning to our lodge in the early evening, time to freshen up and then enjoy a superb dinner.



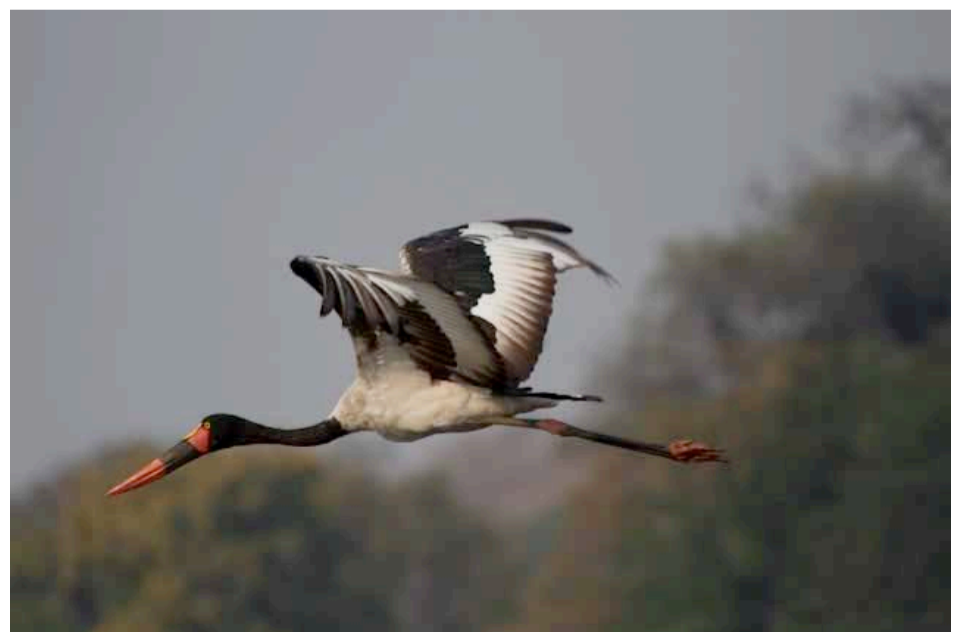
Saturday 15th September 2012 (B,L,D)

Early start this morning for our first game drive of the day in the Amboseli National Park

After lunch at the Game Lodge Peter and Emanuel will conduct the special "moving critters" section of their photographic workshop.

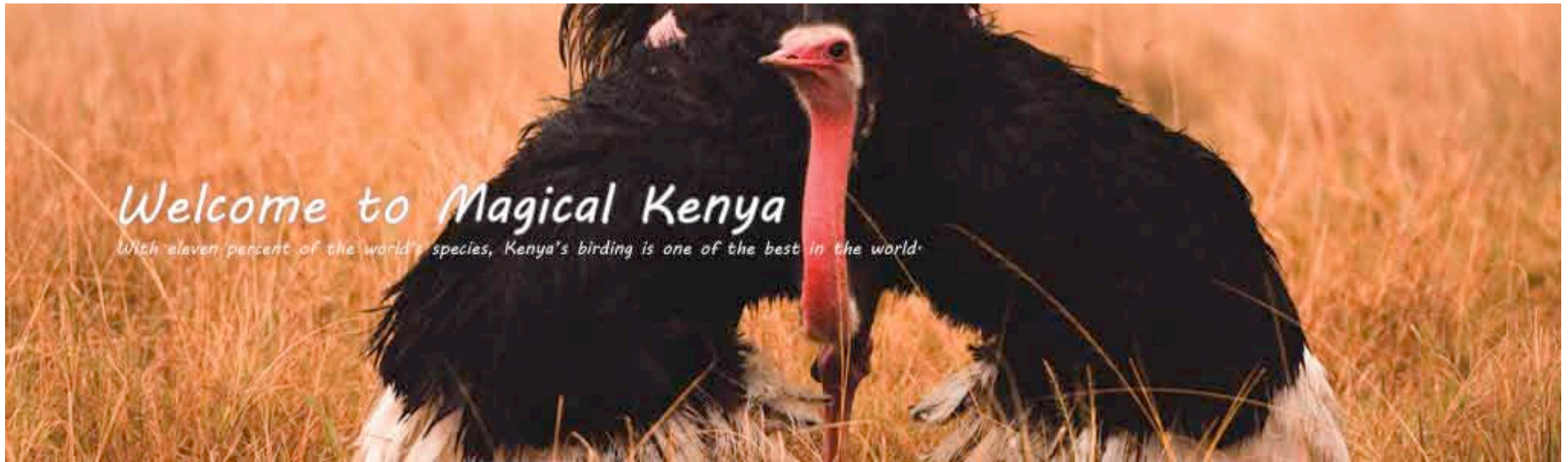


Tony Munday © from our 2010 African Photographic Tour



Ron Hunter © from our 2010 African Photographic Tour

We will set out at about 15:00pm for the afternoon game drive, returning to our lodge in the early evening, time to freshen up and then enjoy a superb dinner.



Stargazing is on the agenda tonight, a chance to set up our cameras on tripods and take some time-lapse images of the night sky. Tonight and for the next three nights we are in the "dark" of the moon, so no moonlight to interfere with our stargazing, perfect conditions to explore yet another facet of your photography.

Sunday 16th September 2012 (B,D)

Early start again this morning (we are going to get used to this) and after breakfast we will set out for, initially Nairobi (15 minute coffee break) and then 2.5 hours to Lake Nakuru. This drive will be one to remember as we will be travelling along the escarpment of the Rift Valley, breath-taking scenery and photographic opportunities will present all along the way. Our destination is the superb Lake Nakuru Game Lodge, right in Lake Nakuru National Park, which will be our home for the next two nights



This afternoon after we will set out at about 16:00pm for the first of our game drives at Lake Nakuru and the fantastic photographic opportunities that await us there. This is Pink Flamingo country; literally millions of these magnificent birds call Lake Nakuru home. We will return to our lodge in the evening, enjoying a superb dinner and then comparing and critiquing our images

Monday 17th September 2012 (B,L,D)

Early start this morning (there seems to be a pattern forming here) for our first game drive of the day at Lake Nakuru. We will return to our lodge before the heat of the day, time to freshen up, a dip in the swimming pool and then lunch.



After lunch we will have a chance to review and for Peter and Emanuel to critique some of our "moving critters" images from this morning's game drive.



Peter and Emanuel will conduct the special "waiting for the moment" section of their photographic workshop. Patience, patience, patience, waiting for that magic moment when it all comes together.



We will set out at about 15:00pm for the afternoon game drive, returning to our lodge in the early evening, time to freshen up, enjoy "sundowners" and enjoy a superb dinner.

Tuesday 18th to Tuesday 25th September 2012 (B,L,D)

Early start again this morning (see, I told you, we are going to get used to this) and after breakfast we will set out travelling the 4-hours to the Masai Mara, once again taking any photographic opportunities that present on the way. Our destination is the Entim Private Explorer Camp, which will be our home for the next seven nights. All meals, beer and local wines are included at Entim Private Explorer Camp.



Entim is a tented camp, far from roughing it as you can see

Entim lounge area, "Sundowners" here as the wildlife goes by



Pic Ron Hunter © from our 2010 African Photographic Tour



Zebra and wildebeest on the Masai plains

Situated in the heart of Kenya's legendary Masai Mara Game Reserve, Entim Private Explorer Camp is right in the middle of the very best game-viewing areas. While many other visitors to the Mara will be staying in camps in the surrounding areas and conservancies, at Entim you don't have to drive for hours to get to the wildlife action because you are right there in the middle of it. Nor do you have to be hurried out of the Reserve before gates close at 6.30 pm: at Entim you can continue to witness the wild's most important and dramatic events, which often take place at dusk and dawn. All day and into the evening you can just sit in camp and watch the animals passing by right in front of you.



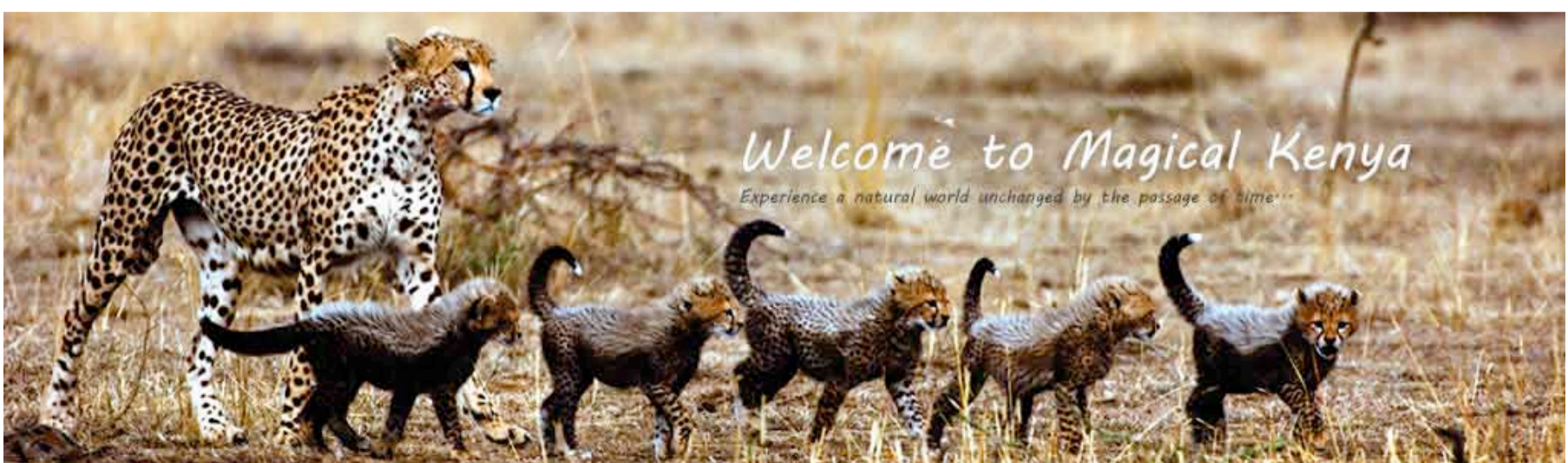
There's never a dull moment as you watch the daily events of the wild unfold before your eyes. The spectacular views from camp, and your experiences while you enjoy our hospitality will be gently absorbed into your memory to take home with you. Entim Camp also has a deep involvement with the local Masai, and commits funds to the education, health and welfare of the local people.



Entim meaning "forest" in Masai is discreetly tucked away in the riverine woodlands. From the shaded seclusion of this attractively designed camp, guests can relax in luxury and admire unforgettable views over the Mara River and across expansive plains, with the distant backdrops of undulating escarpments and volcanically-sculpted hills. From the veranda of each tent it is even possible to witness the breathtaking sight of thousands of Wildebeest crossing the river during their annual migration through this vast wilderness area.



We have kept the camp eco-friendly and small, with only seven, tastefully but differently furnished, well-equipped tents. Our decor aims to enhance the surrounding environment. All tents are well placed, with en-suite, flush-toilets and hot showers. There is a cosy lounge area with a small library, separate bar and dining area, which is open-fronted allowing guests the unmatched experience of eating meals while watching the animals move to and from the river to drink and forage for their food. We are a semi-permanent camp, designed to give guests the feel that we are part of the landscape, although we offer real luxury, unlike many mobile camps in the Mara. We don't have a swimming pool or paved paths because the experience at Entim Private Explorer Camp is not your average hotel or lodge experience: it's about being right in the hub of one of the most famous wildlife reserves in the world.





The Mara's wild inhabitants provide your entertainment, almost constantly. Entim Private Explorer Camp is smaller than most camps. We believe that if there are too many people, you lose the interaction with the wild. At Entim you can hear the birds and animals, and perhaps a background rustle of wind, here you will truly relax into the stillness of the wild.



Ron Hunter © from our 2010 African Photographic Tour



Perilous crossing indeed

The Masai Mara area of Kenya is justly famous for the annual mass migration of the vast herds of Zebra, Wildebeest and other plains antelopes. Literally millions of animals with their newly born calves cross the plains and then funnel into one only crossing area of the Mara River.

It is here numbers of massive crocodiles await the crossing, at first letting the initial trickle of tentative, larger animals pass, the crocodiles then target the young calves as this trickle of animals turns into a stampeding flood.

It was during this perilous river crossing in 2010 that one of the most remarkable wildlife interactions occurred. The photographs below tell part of this story.



Michael Yule at Lemala Mara

This Hippo was watching as the Wildebeest herd swam past. As soon as the calf jumped in, the hippo swam up to it and pushed it along all the way across until it had reached safety on the other side. *Hippos are capable of biting an adult crocodile in half!



The same hippo then returned ten minutes later to the arriving herds and pushed a Zebra calf safely across the river



Baby Zebra seen safe and sound out of the river by Hippo. Hippo are closely related to horses, as are Zebra, but antelope?

Tuesday 25th September 2012 (B)

After breakfast (yes you guessed it, early) we will set off for the 5-hour drive to Nairobi, once again taking any photographic opportunities that present on the way. We will arrive in Nairobi around noon.

Kenya / Australia

Tuesday 25th September 2012

Depart Nairobi (NBO), Kenya on Etihad Airlines flight EY642 at 14:30pm

Arrive Abu Dhabi (AUH), United Arab Emirates at 20:25pm

Depart Abu Dhabi (AUH), United Arab Emirates on Etihad Airlines flight EY454 at 22:00pm

Wednesday 26th September 2012

Arrive Sydney (SYD) at 18:10pm

Introducing our wildlife guides and photographic instructors, Peter and Emanuel

I first had contact with Peter Craig-Cooper in 2008 when I was in the initial planning for our African Odyssey Tour of 2010. It was with Peter's great help and professional expertise that combined we put together the best tour any of us could ever have imagined.

Peter and Emanuel improved the quality of our safari time in Botswana, by a factor of TEN. Our resultant captured images and fond memories of our time spent with them are absolutely priceless.

It was a complete no-brainer, to once again call on Peter and Emanuel to help in organising and to have them accompany us on our 2012 tour to Kenya and the Masai Mara.

Peter Craig-Cooper, wildlife guide, photographic instructor: www.petercraig-cooper.co.za

Peter has always been attracted to the outdoors, with a specific interest in wildlife. He played an active role in the founding of the Wildlife Photographic Section of the Wildlife Society of SA, and later joined the Durban Camera Club. During this period he regularly entered Salons and gained his FPSSA for colour slides, his APSSA for colour prints and published works. Peter has judged for both National and International salons in South Africa and has lectured on photography. Peter is a registered Nature Tour Guide. He also held the position of President of the Durban Camera Club three times and was elected a Director of PSSA in the 1980's. Many of his wildlife images are marketed in South Africa and abroad.



Peter Craig-Cooper



Emanuel Maria, wildlife guide and photographic instructor: www.emanuelmaria.co.za

Emanuel is a very well known photographer in his field, and his photographs have been published in books, calendars, postcards and magazines locally and overseas. Over the years, Emanuel has acquired a fellowship with the photographic society of Southern Africa (FPSSA), an associateship with the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain (ARPS), associateship with the Australian Photographic Society (AAPS) and associateship with the Federation International Art Photographic (AFIAP). He's also a member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and the Canadian Association of Photographic Art

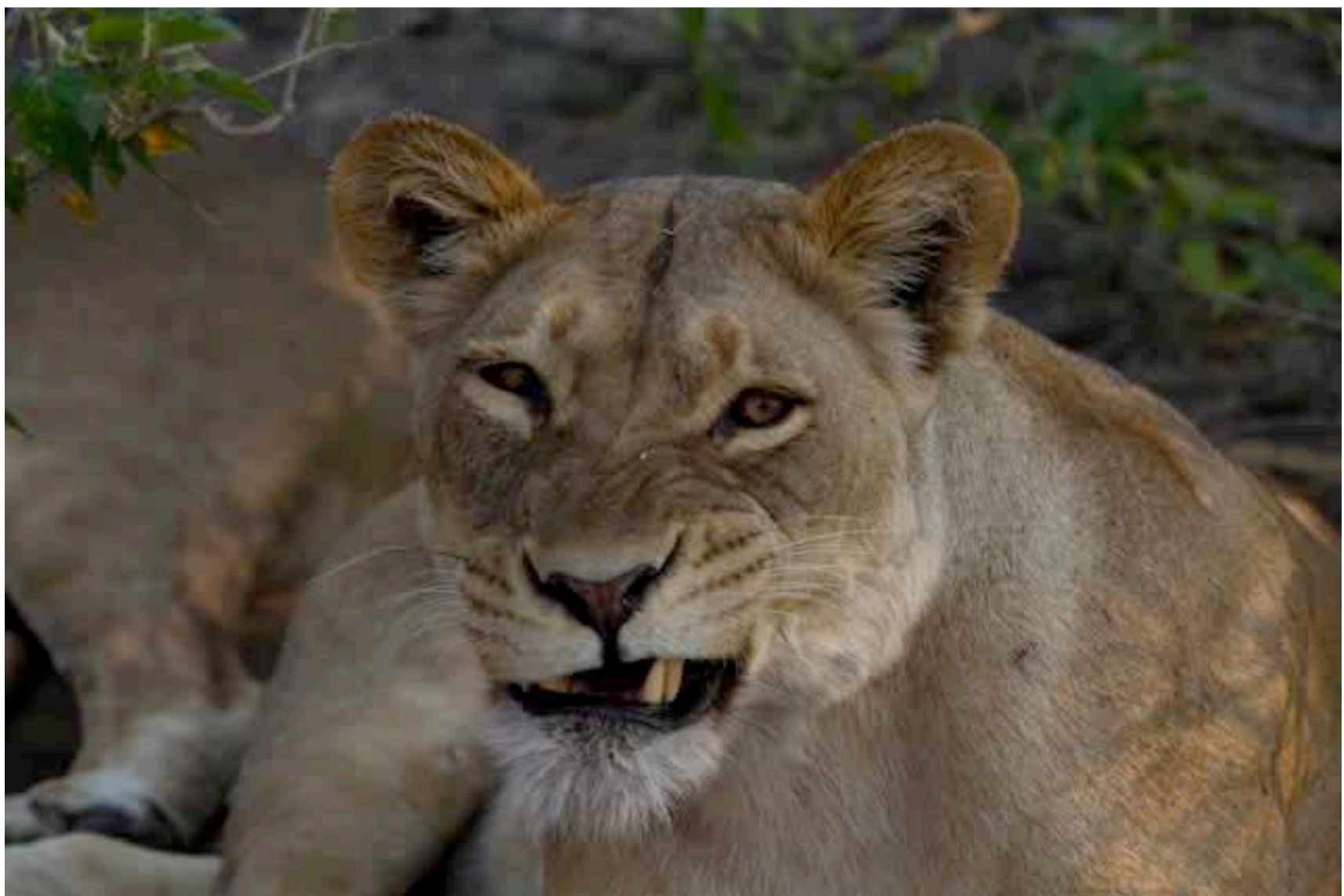


Emanuel Maria



The Photographic Workshop:

Peter and Emanuel will accompany us each day on the game drives. We will have the opportunity to learn from their vast photographic knowledge and skills, as well as their intimate knowledge of the African bush and the wildlife that we will encounter. There will be individual and group tuition daily; downloading of images and the much anticipated daily prize awarding.



Pic Ron Hunter © copyright from our 2010 African Photographic Tour

Suggested equipment required is a digital SLR camera. A wide angle to telephoto zoom lens, say 18mm-100mm, would be ideal for general pics, a zoom telescopic lens, say 100mm-400mm would be perfect for those great critter pics. We will be shooting in high-res JPEG or preferably RAW format, so you will need large capacity, fast memory cards for your cameras. Travellers with compact digital or video cameras will also get a great deal from the Photographic Workshop. A laptop computer for reviewing your images will be a great addition to have, as well as a card reader. A portable hard drive is essential for back up and storage of your images.



Pic Ron Hunter © copyright from our 2010 African Photographic Tour

Ron Hunter, tour leader, profile: www.diveforster.com.au www.whaledive.net

Ron is a vastly experienced SCUBA diver, PADI Divemaster and traveller, and has travelled and led groups of divers to most of the great dive and adventure locations in the world. Ron has previously travelled on Safari in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and South Africa. The annual migration of the herds of wildebeest, zebra and other plains antelopes is one of the most amazing spectacles in Africa. Putting this section of the tour together was only possible with the invaluable help of Peter Craig-Cooper. The addition of the Photographic Workshop has really set this tour out, we believe, as one of the best, most comprehensive big critter wildlife, educational and adventure tours available.



Ron Hunter with "safety" stick, patting a young wild lioness in Zambia
Pic Franziska Loehrer © copyright 2010



Ron Hunter snorkelling with Whale Shark in Mozambique
Pic Franziska Loehrer © copyright 2010

For more information on our game lodges and reserves in Kenya visit:

Ol Tukai Game Lodge, Amboseli Game Reserve www.oltukailodge.com

Lake Nakuru Lodge, Lake Nakuru www.lakenakurulodge.com

Entim Private Explorer Camp, Masai Mara www.entim-mara.com/entim

Visit Professional photographer Ian Weatherburn's "blogspot" to get an idea what it is really like

<http://ianweatherburn.blogspot.com/2010/09/maasai-mara-c4-images-safaris-aug-sep.html>

Fact file:

Tour costs INCLUDE:

- Small group tour; maximum TWELVE participants plus guides in Kenya
- Thirteen days Photographic Workshop in Kenya with our Guides, Peter and Emanuel
- Thirteen days use of three extended Landcruiser 4WDs, designed for unrestricted photography
- Maximum of FOUR photographers plus a guide and driver in each vehicle
- Three nights' accommodation at Ol Tukai Safari Lodge, Amboseli Game Reserve
- Two nights' accommodation at Lake Nakuru Game Lodge, Lake Nakuru National Reserve
- Seven nights' accommodation at Entim Private Explorer Camp, Masai Mara
- All superb meals at the three game lodges, plus beer and wine at Entim Private Explorer Camp
- Vehicles and passengers, park and game reserves fees for eleven nights
- Emergency evacuation to Nairobi, cover for all participants for our twelve days in Kenya
- Services of tour leader, Ron Hunter
- Codes for included meals: B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner

Tour costs do NOT INCLUDE:

- Return flights to Nairobi, Kenya
- Meals other than specified
- Drinks, alcoholic and soft other than specified
- Tips and gratuities
- Items of a personal nature

Cost ex: Nairobi, Kenya \$US 10,000

All costs are based on a twin-share accommodation basis. Single supplements are NOT available

Flight schedules and flight times in itinerary are as at November 2011

For airfares to and from Kenya we suggest you contact Cameron at our Travel Agent:

Cameron Snow, Harvey World Travel - Tuncurry NSW - Licence number: 2TA 5683 / 2TA 5684

Cameron.Tuncurry@harveyworld.com.au 'Phone 02 6554 6673 fax 02 6554 8712

Cameron is really across the excursion flights, which can deliver a considerable saving over buying the flights separately. Flights SYD / AUH / NBO / AUH / SYD are \$1710 as at November 2011

Flights are also available ex: Melbourne and Brisbane

** Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours. We strongly recommend taking out travel insurance at the same time as paying your deposit. Covermore, our recommended insurance provider, will cover you from the time of paying your premium, until your tour's return date. We suggest carefully checking conditions of any other travel insurance you may be considering.

For information regarding flights and travel insurance contact Cameron at our Travel Agent:

Harvey World Travel - Tuncurry NSW - Licence number: 2TA 5683 / 2TA 5684

Cameron.Tuncurry@harveyworld.com.au 'phone 02 6554 6673 fax 02 6554 8712

If you choose to book your own flights, and then in the event of changes of schedules, we will not be responsible for any punitive charges that may be applied by the likes of Flight Centre and it's associated companies, STA Travel and Escape Travel