

# African Photographic Wildlife Safari

April 29 - May 9, 2015

11 days, 10 nights

Limited to 12 participants

Join Brian and Donna Hampton and Nels and Anna Akerlund on another private photo safari and experience some of Africa's best wildlife viewing and photography. We will stay at some of Africa's top camps, each with beautiful accommodations and their own unique habitats to maximize the diversity of flora and fauna that we will experience. We will have exclusive use of all three camps for our workshop safari, a rare and wonderful chance to learn and explore with the full attention of the guides and staff for our small group. While most safaris will have eight or ten people per safari vehicle, as an added luxury we have arranged for only four people per vehicle on this safari. This means that each participant will get their own personal seat in our safari vehicles during game drives, with viewing out each side to maximize your opportunities to view and capture wildlife unobstructed on every excursion. We have also requested photographic guides, creating a custom African Wildlife Safari that is once-in-a-lifetime experience. While a great safari for photographers of all skill levels, this trip is not exclusively for photographers. There will be ample time outside of the game drives for guided bush walks with our knowledgeable guides, river cruises, canoe excursions, and R&R time at our luxurious camps surrounded by the breath-taking African landscape.

For participants interested in creating a collection of amazing images of African wildlife and landscape to bring home, we will be available for advice and questions throughout the safari if you so choose. We love travel and photography, and believe that much is gained when people who share a passion come together to explore and learn. We take great pride in our attention to detail, and our genuine interest in helping our participants absorb as much as they can while traveling with us. We will offer technical photography and workflow guidance during our safari, as well as offer group critiques on occasion to accelerate your progress if you'd like. Our mission is to help each participant grow as a photographer regardless of skill level, and have a wonderful travel experience.

## About the trip:

*Price per person \$13,500 (double occupancy)*

### *What's included?*

- All accommodations (double occupancy) while on safari April 29 - May 9
- Relevant park fees
- Round-trip airfare between Johannesburg, South Africa and our safari locations
- Private, round-trip air charters to and from our safari locations
- Private safari vehicles (open 4x4's) at all camps
- All safari activities
- Services of the lodge guides and staff
- Daily laundry while in the safari camps
- All meals and drinks while at the camps (non-alcoholic and alcoholic, excluding premium brands)
- Breakfast while at Victoria Falls
- Current Tourism Levies and all relevant Value Added Tax or Government Sales Taxes



### *What's not included?*

- International airfare and/or other transportation between your home and Johannesburg, South Africa
- Travel Insurance
- Visas
- Airport Departure taxes (about \$15 each time we leave a country)
- Gratuities for camp staff (very small amounts, optional)
- Optional extra activities (helicopter flights at Victoria Falls, Rwanda Gorilla Trip option, etc.)
- Lunches and dinners at Victoria Falls
- Personal purchases (including curios, spirit liquors, telephone calls, etc.)
- Tours or activities before or after the safari
- Meals or accommodations before or after the safari

### **Typical Day:**

Pre-Dawn	Rise for coffee, tea and light breakfast
Sunrise	Depart for morning game drive (photography & wildlife viewing excursion)
10.30am	Return to camp
11:00am	Brunch, followed by free time
2:30pm	Gather for photo and workflow guidance
3:30pm	Tea time
4:00pm	Afternoon game drive (photography & wildlife viewing excursion)
Sunset	Sundowners (beverage of choice at sunset)
7:30pm	Dinner

We recommend all participants fly into Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International Airport (airport code JNB) and plan to arrive on April 28. We will meet at a time and location to be advised, and will depart Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International Airport around 10 am on April 29 for the flight to the Lusaka Airport in Zambia. Upon arrival in Lusaka we will make our way to our scheduled aircraft transfer to our first camp.

### **Location One: Chiawa Camp, Zambia April 29 - May 2**

Family-owned and operated, the multi-award winning Chiawa Camp offers unpretentious luxury and warm hospitality in the iconic Lower Zambezi National Park, and is one of Brian and Donna's favorites. An incredible variety of land and river-based safari activities await you, led by a brilliant team of African-born guides. Consisting of tents on elevated timber decks with spacious verandas looking out across the Zambezi River, each is equipped with ball-and-claw bath and indoor and outdoor showers. The main area consists of a thatched living area with an upstairs viewing platform and a dining area with an al fresco deck. They also boast a riverside fireplace and a plunge pool with surrounding sun deck.

The Lower Zambezi National Park, by virtue of the Zambezi River and its parallel escarpment, is one of Africa's most scenic wildernesses, home to an impressive quantity and variety of wildlife that can be viewed not only on the more usual land-based safari activities but also on a variety of water based activities and in the camps themselves. Lion, leopard, elephant, hippo, buffalo and other species are plentiful.



At a time to be advised by the camp management, we will be transferred from Chiawa on May 2 to the airstrip for our scheduled aircraft transfer to Lusaka, Kariba Airport, and Ruckomechi Camp.



## **Location Two: Ruckomechi Camp, Zimbabwe**

**May 2 - 5**

Set on the banks of the Zambezi River, the biodiversity surrounding Ruckomechi Camp is a naturalist's paradise. While we have not yet been to this camp, we are very excited as it comes highly recommended by our trip coordinator, who we've been working with for the last 10 African safaris. A large grove of acacia and mahogany trees with a fabulous mountainous backdrop across in Zambia sets the scene, while large numbers of elephant, buffalo and eland create the excitement. With these stunning views also evident from your spacious en-suite tent, you will be smitten with the secluded outdoor 'bath-with-a-view'. Low-level walkways connect the guest tents to the beautifully designed central dining, bar, library and lounge areas. For your comfort they also have a separate deck with an infinity pool for swimming and sunbathing, and an inviting, cushion-strewn stargazing deck.



Mana Pools National Park lies at the heart of the Zambezi Valley, a remote, beautiful place with spectacular views of the broad flowing river, adjoining well-defined tree canopy and the mountains of the Rift Valley escarpment over the border in Zambia. The area offers large concentrations of buffalo and elephant, while predators such as lion, wild dog, leopard and cheetah are often sighted. Greater kudu, Burchell's zebra, impala, warthog and common waterbuck can be seen on the surrounding plains and the grunting of hippo can be heard all day. Birdlife is superb, with numerous local specials like collared palm-thrush and racket-tailed roller.

At a time to be advised by the camp management, we will be transferred from Ruckmechi on May 5 to the airstrip for our scheduled aircraft transfer to Victoria Falls.

## **Location Three: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**

**May 5 - 6**

One of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, Victoria Falls is a spectacular sight not to be missed! We are lucky to be traveling when the falls are at maximum flow, forming the largest curtain of falling water in the world. Stretching 1.7 km wide and shared by the countries of Zambia and Zimbabwe, the falls are formed as the full width of the Zambezi plummets into a 108-metre deep chasm at a rate of 500 million litres of water per minute. The spray from the falls can sometimes be seen nearly 50 km away, hence the local name Mosi-oa-Tunya, meaning "Smoke that Thunders".



While visiting, we will stay at The Victoria Falls Hotel, popularly known as 'The Grand Old Lady of the Falls'. Situated perfectly in the fabulous Victoria Falls National Park, a world heritage site, it offers easy walking access to the breathtaking falls. Lunches and dinners during our stay here are not included or pre-arranged, giving you the freedom to choose from the many delicious choices available. World-class service, culinary delights and incredible views make the hotel a magnet for international visitors and locals alike. You can dine in the Livingstone Room, the Jungle Junction, or sip cocktails on the Stanley Terrace, which has been a rendezvous for adventurers for over a century.



At a time to be advised, we will be transferred from Victoria Falls on May 6 to Kasane Airport for our scheduled aircraft transfer to Kings Pool Camp.

## **Location Four: Kings Pool Camp, Botswana**

### **May 6 - 9**

Named for Scandinavian royalty, Kings Pool is another of our favorites and overlooks the handsome oxbow-shaped Kings Pool Lagoon in the Linyanti Wildlife Reserve bordering Chobe National Park. The camp's luxurious tents each boast a large bedroom area and lounge leading out onto a veranda with a private plunge pool and thatched sala from which to soak up the gorgeous views and possibly even spot elephant crossing the channel. The spacious en-suite bathrooms have double showers and hand-basins, as well as an outdoor shower for those who wish to shower 'in' nature! The spacious main area comprises a lounge, dining room and a convivial bar beautifully set on expansive raised decks. There is also a pool and an open-air 'kgotla' for evening dining under the stars.

The Linyanti Wildlife Reserve has abundant wildlife in a wide variety of species, but is most noted for its very large elephant population, which can reach enormous densities during the dry winter months. Other game is abundant, such as impala, lechwe, kudu, zebra, giraffe, buffalo and bushbuck, and their predators: lion, leopard, cheetah, wild dog and spotted hyena. Rarer species such as sable and roan antelope also emerge from the woodlands during the dry season. Birding is spectacular.

At a time to be advised by the camp management, we will be transferred from Kings Pool on May 9 to the airstrip for our scheduled aircraft transfer to the Maun, Botswana airport. From the Maun airport we will board our flight to Johannesburg, South Africa. From there you will continue on your own to your scheduled flight back to the USA, or continue to Rwanda for the optional Mountain Gorilla Trek option (see information below).

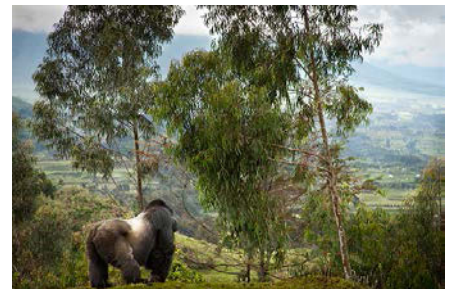
## **Rwanda Mountain Gorilla Trek Optional Add-on**

### **May 9 - 12**

As their name implies, Mountain Gorillas live in forests high in the mountains, at elevations of 8,000-13,000 feet. Critically endangered, there are estimated to be only about 880 mountain gorillas that survive in only two locations on earth, one of which is Rwanda. (They do not survive in captivity, which is why they are not seen in zoos.) For those interested in seeing the gorillas in their natural habitat, this trip add-on offers one of the best locations for observing these magnificent creatures in person: perhaps one of the most dramatic, thrilling and poignant wildlife experiences possible.

In the Parc National des Volcans in Rwanda there are eight families of Mountain Gorilla living on the slopes of the Virunga Volcanoes. Tracking the mountain gorilla through the misty forests requires patience and stamina, often requiring hours of walking. These hikes through seemingly impenetrable forests can be an exhausting process as the paths are often slippery and wet, so a reasonable amount of physical ability is required for this leg of our trip. However, this effort is quickly forgotten the minute you find these beautiful creatures. The encounter is often described as being the most profound natural history experience in the world.

We will arrive in the afternoon on May 9 at a time to be determined, and check in at the lodge. Gorilla treks take place in the morning and depart from the Park Headquarters at around 7:30 am. Prior to departure you are given a briefing by park staff, assigned a gorilla family to visit, and





rangers to guide you. The treks normally start in the cultivated land on the base of the volcanoes and then continue up into the beautiful dense misty forests. The trek normally lasts between two and five hours depending on the location of the gorilla family, and a maximum of eight visitors is allowed per gorilla family. Once you reach the gorillas you are permitted to stay for one hour to view them. After the trek, lunch will be at your hotel. The afternoon of May 10 is for your leisure. We will have two morning opportunities to trek during our stay (on May 10 & 11).



On May 9 & 10 we will stay at Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge, which is only minutes away from the headquarters of the Parc National des Volcans where we trek on foot to see the Mountain Gorillas. The lodge, situated in the foothills of the mighty Virungas, affords wonderful views of the volcanoes and the surrounding countryside. Guest cottages and the main lodge building have been beautifully constructed and appointed, and the lodge is the perfect base from which to explore this unique and fascinating corner of Africa.



After our morning gorilla trek on May 11, we will have lunch at the hotel, and then transfer to the five-star Kigali Serena Hotel in Kigali. This hotel is built around a polished granite atrium showcasing the very best of Rwandese cultural art. If time permits, you may also choose to visit the Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre, a museum dedicated as a permanent memorial for the victims of the Rwandan genocide of 1994.

On May 12 at a time to be advised, after a complimentary breakfast we will be transferred to Kigali Airport for our scheduled aircraft transfer to Johannesburg, South Africa. From there you will continue on your own to your scheduled flight back to the USA.

*Price per person \$4600 (double occupancy)*

*What's included?*

- All accommodations (double occupancy) while in Rwanda May 9 - 12
- Round-trip airfare between Johannesburg, South Africa and the Kigali Airport
- Airport Assistance
- Private vehicles for transfers with a guaranteed window seat
- All safari activities
- Gorilla Viewing Permit and Park fees (\$1500 per person, non-refundable and non-changeable)
- Services of the lodge guides and staff
- All meals and drinks while at the Sabinyoyo Silverback Lodge (non-alcoholic and alcoholic, excluding premium brands)
- Breakfast while at the Kigali Serena Hotel
- Current Tourism Levies and all relevant Value Added Tax, or Government Sales Taxes

*What's not included?*

- International airfare and/or other transportation between your home and Johannesburg, South Africa
- Airport Departure Taxes (about \$15 each time we leave a country)
- Visas
- Gratuities for camp staff (very small amounts, optional)
- Travel Insurance
- Personal purchases (including curios, spirit liquors, telephone calls, etc.)
- Daily laundry
- Lunch on May 9, and dinner on May 11

**You may learn more about Brian and Donna Hampton and Nels and Anna Akerlund by visiting their websites:**

Brian and Donna Hampton: [www.BrianHamptonPhotography.com](http://www.BrianHamptonPhotography.com)  
Nels Akerlund Photography + Video: [www.NelsAkerlund.com](http://www.NelsAkerlund.com)