Workshops and Tours Guide

October 2017

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Mountain Gorilla
Workshop and Tour Dates – October 2017

N.B. these are the dates as at publication of this newsletter - other dates being added all the time and courses are filling up please see website for up-to-date details and to book places.

I maintain waiting lists for all workshops where dates have yet to be advertised or for cancellations. To put your name on a waiting list visit workshop page on my website and click the green "waiting list" button.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dragonflies – National Dragonfly centre</td>
<td>Wicken Fen</td>
<td>£100 per head</td>
<td>8th July 2018, 15th July 2017, 22nd July 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insectivorous plants specialist macro workshop – Stowmarket</td>
<td></td>
<td>£180 per head</td>
<td>3rd June 2018, 7th July 2018, 28th July 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>British Wildlife Centre – Surrey</td>
<td></td>
<td>£164 per head</td>
<td>22nd March 2018, 19th April 2018, 14th May 2018, 19th June 2018, 25th June 2018, 26th June 2018 – Special Golden Hour Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fungi Close up and Macro workshop.</td>
<td></td>
<td>£80 per head</td>
<td>2018 dates to be published soon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taking control of your camera – Icarus Falcorony Northamptonshire</td>
<td></td>
<td>£110 per head</td>
<td>2018 dates to be published soon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolf Photo Workshop - Near Reading</td>
<td></td>
<td>£150 per head</td>
<td>20th March 2018, 17th April 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvest Mouse Photo Workshops (Max 3 delegates per workshop)</td>
<td></td>
<td>£62 per head per 1/2 day</td>
<td>2018 dates on website</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crocodile Photo Workshop (Max 6 delegates per workshop)</td>
<td></td>
<td>£120 per head</td>
<td>2018 dates to be published soon</td>
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## Tours / Safaris

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Cost for 2018</th>
<th>Inclusions</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenya – Big Cats of the Massai Mara – The Rolling Plains of Africa.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>£5,495</strong> all inclusive – flights – full board, park fees etc.</td>
<td>22nd Feb. to 3rd March 2018</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Tanzania – An unspoilt photographer’s paradise. 10 nights</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cost for 2018 – to be decided – please e-mail for more information or to reserve place.</td>
<td>2018 dates to be published soon</td>
<td>Check website for latest and to add your name to waiting list</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Botswana and Zimbabwe – the Elephant Safari 11 nights</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cost for 2018 – to be decided – please e-mail for more information or to reserve place.</td>
<td>2018 dates to be published soon</td>
<td>Check website for latest and to add your name to waiting list</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Serengeti – Southern Wildebeest Migration and Ngoro Ngoro Crater 10 nights</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>£5,150</strong> all inclusive – flights – full board, park fees etc.</td>
<td>3rd to 13th March 2018</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NEW for 2018</strong> – Uganda Gorilla Trekking – 4 days</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cost for 2018 – to be decided – please e-mail for more information or to reserve place.</td>
<td>2018 dates to be published soon</td>
<td>Check website for latest and to add your name to waiting list</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wild Europe Spectacular European Mammals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>£850</strong> Including all land transfers and accommodation but excluding flights - see tour details for further information.</td>
<td>2nd to 6th May 2018</td>
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I maintain waiting lists for all workshops where dates have yet to be advertised or for cancellations. To put your name on a waiting list visit Foreign Tours page on my website and click the green "waiting list" button.
An intensive day with your camera photographing wildlife under the guidance of an experienced wildlife photographer is a superb way to improve and perfect your photographic techniques as well as an excellent opportunity to take home some superb shots.

As Natures Photos I run an increasing number of such days around the country either at centres with specific wildlife subjects e.g. butterflies or birds of prey or more general days in suitable locations. These workshops and courses are designed specifically for the enthusiastic photographers with a real interest in photographing wildlife. As your experienced wildlife photographer and teacher my aim on all of my courses and tours is quite simple, to help you master many of the field techniques required of a competent wildlife photographer and to come away having improved your technique, your knowledge of the subjects and with some memorable images.

The workshops are carefully tailored to enable me to support everyone from the novice photographer to those who are considerably more experienced. I limit the numbers on these events so that I can personally support and assist you to improve and refine your photographic skills. This includes gaining a better understanding of digital photography techniques and how to achieve creative images. I will be available throughout the workshop to assist and guide as much as required and will take the time to discuss and explain particular techniques and approaches.

In addition to UK based day workshops I arrange and run longer overseas holidays / tours specifically for the enthusiastic photographers. The aims are exactly the same as for the workshops except that we have longer to achieve them and will be visiting some stunning locations with equally stunning wildlife.

I advertise dates for all my workshops and tours through my website, www.naturesphotos.co.uk, and through my regular newsletters. I am constantly adding new dates and new workshops, if you wish to be kept informed of these and other developments in Natures Photos please visit my website and sign up for my newsletter. If you wish to book a place please visit the workshop page and click on the “book a place” button by the workshop you are interested in.

This leaflet contains details, dates and prices for the workshops and tours available at the time of publication. Fuller details and booking forms are available on my website. If you are reading this brochure electronically then all the links will take you to the relevant parts of my website. If not please visit www.naturesphotos.co.uk and follow the links to workshops, UK and abroad.
Brief workshop details

Fuller details and booking via website – naturesphotos.co.uk

Specialist Raptor centre

This unique workshop is held at a raptor centre in North Northamptonshire where the birds are trained and actively used for hunting so are in excellent condition, very keen and very fit. Unlike many other centres and because these are working birds many are kept with the minimum of equipment making semi natural shots all the easier and much more realistic.

The centre has a wide range of different raptors including many species of owls, falcons from the small kestrel right up to the magnificent Gyr Falcon, a wide selection of eagles and hawks. It is part of a splendid 3,000 acre private estate providing us with excellent opportunities to photograph birds in a wide range of natural settings. We will have access to the whole of the estate and working with the owner and head falconer I have selected a number of natural settings for us to use to photograph the birds. During the day we will have ample opportunities to photograph a range of birds, from owls to magnificent eagles and challengingly fast falcons.

In addition to static shots we will have the opportunity to practise more taxing flight shots. We will start by encouraging some species to fly the same path repeatedly thus enabling you to practice and fine tune your tracking abilities before attempting to photograph the large falcons the true high speed masters.

I will soon be advertising evening session in the summer concentrating on Owls in the evening light. If you are interested please enquire.

British Wildlife Centre Surrey

This amazing location offers the very best opportunities for photographing British wildlife. The centre has been especially created with large enclosures designed specifically with photographers in mind. Some of the major TV channels including the BBC use this venue regularly. It is normally open to the public only on bank holidays and at weekends, and then only provides limited access to the animals. We will have the centre to ourselves and privileged access into the pens with some of the animals so there will be no barriers or wire obscuring your view!

You will come home with stunning photographs that would be extremely difficult in the wild, will have improved your photographic technique and learnt a great deal more about your camera and the wildlife. This is a workshop not to be missed.

Animals available at the centre include foxes, otters and wild cats - you will enter all these enclosures for stunning photographs - stoats, weasels, polecats, mink all in natural settings with logs, water and appropriate undergrowth. Other animals available include Badgers, roe deer, red deer, muntjac deer, snakes, water voles, frogs and more. This is a truly magnificent centre and provides unrivalled photo opportunities.
Secret British Mammals
2 day Workshop Safari - Devon

Having spent many years studying and photographing our British mammals I know first-hand exactly how difficult this can be as most of our native species are extremely secretive and some even nocturnal.

I am therefore thrilled to be able to offer an opportunity to use a private wildlife collection in Devon as the setting for this 2 day workshop/safari. With over 16 years’ experience working with wildlife film makers and photographers the owner has created a series of purpose built photographic and film sets where we can photograph an excellent collection of captive British mammals. This is the centre where the burrowers BBC2 series was filmed and we will be using some of the sets built specifically for that series.

The aim of this workshop/safari is to provide an unparalleled opportunity to photograph the broadest range of British mammals with relative ease and in highly realistic and landscaped surroundings. We will have unrestricted access to photograph most species and can spend as much time as we like with any one. Specialities include the rare European beaver in an 8 acre enclosure where they have cut down their own trees to dam the river.

As well as large mammals such as foxes, wild boar, muntjac deer, wildcat, pine martin, polecat, weasel, stoats, edible dormice, roe deer, moles we will photograph small mammals in specially designed sets. These will include species such as the rare water vole and equally rare water shrew as well as many species of mouse and rats.

Given the sheer wealth of opportunities at this venue and the distance from most centres of population this will be a two day course. You can be guaranteed to come back with a vast number of excellent and unique photos. This is fast proving to be a very popular workshop. I regularly take groups from camera clubs on special club trips here – all I need is 4 bookings to run a workshop just for you. With 6 – 8 people I can offer a reduced price. If you or your club are interested please do get in touch.

Dragonfly Photography Workshop

Dragonflies are a challenging but rewarding subject for the macro photographer. They are the animated flying jewels that are a true sign of summer in the British countryside and make really interesting if not challenging subjects for photography.

This unique workshop is offered nowhere else. It is being run jointly with staff from the Dragonfly Project at Wicken Fen in Cambridgeshire www.dragonflyproject.org.uk. With nearly 40 years’ experience as a wildlife and macro photographer I will provide the photographic tuition and they will work with us helping us to find subjects to photograph, assisting with identification and providing background information and on these fascinating insects.

The day will start with an introduction to Dragonflies from the Project team and I will provide a practical introduction to the photographic techniques. The majority of the day will then be to photographing dragonflies and damselflies in the reserve as well as larvae in tanks in the Dragonfly Projects base. Group size will be kept to a minimum so that I can provide individual or small group tuition as required and in the field and the Project team can work with individuals.

This is a very special workshop with unique opportunities to learn how to photograph a demanding subject, take some stunning photographs and learn more about these mesmeric creatures.
**Insectivorous plants**  
**A specialist 1-1 macro workshop**

This is a unique workshop offered nowhere else. It is aimed at the keen photographer who wants to learn how to perfect their macro photography whilst capturing photographs of something very different. Insectivorous or carnivorous plants are a fantastic and fascinating subject and to really appreciate and capture an image of these small delicate plants you have to get very close and thus they are ideal subjects for macro work. I never have more than three and usually just 2 people per workshop so you will receive as much personal support and assistance as you require.

I have nearly 40 years of experience of macro photography and regularly give talks on the subject to camera clubs and other interested groups. I have teamed up with Andy Wilkinson the owner of Triffid Nurseries one of the country’s premier growers and breeders of these fascinating plants. He has the largest range of carnivorous plants available anywhere in the UK and with his help I am now able to offer the unique opportunity of unrestricted access to photograph a very wide range of superb specimens.

The day will start with a talk and short tour provided by Andy and the bulk of the day will be spent behind the camera. I will be available all day to support and teach new, or help you develop further, your exiting skills. In addition I bring some specialist macro equipment and lighting to each workshop to allow you to experiment with new and exciting equipment.

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**Autumn Fungi - Close up and Macro**

Fungi are the perfect subject for the keen close up and macro photographer. They come in a huge variety of colours, shapes, and sizes and the peak autumn season reveals them at their best as wonderful subjects to photograph. Once you know where to look for them and have mastered the basic photographic and lighting techniques they are an excellent subject to practise and perfect your close up and macro photography skills.

For this workshop I have teamed up with Justin Long, an experienced mycologist, who has been studying fungi for around 15 years. He has led the very popular adult education fungi forays since 2008, and hosted events, forays and talks on fungi for a wide number of different groups and organisations. He is thus is the perfect person to introduce us to this exciting subject and from whom to learn more about identifying different types of fungi including the dangers of certain varieties.

Through this workshop I will seek to introduce you to macro and close up photography of and help you to understand just how easy and fun it is and can be. I will introduce you to some of my preferred techniques for photographing fungi looking to take best advantage of what natural light is available as well as how this can be augmented to optimise the settings the subjects are found in.

As I will be seeking to help you experiment with and learn new techniques I limit the number attending this workshop to a maximum of 8 so that I can spend as much time with each of you as you'd like or want.
Harvest Mice – Photo Workshop

As Britain’s smallest British rodent harvest mice are the only old world mammal to have truly prehensile tails which they use to help them climb. They are extremely active and agile climbers feeding in the stalk zone of long grasses and reeds. I was introduced to this little mouse nearly 40 years ago and I have been fond of them ever since.

All this makes them fascinating and attractive subjects for wildlife photography. Having established a colony for a project I was working on I am now thrilled to be able to give others the opportunity to photograph them for themselves.

This is a chance to capture some really stunning images and to have some fun at the same time. The workshops are ½ day and I limit the numbers to 2 per session to give you the best opportunities for photographs. I am offering the workshops at my house 12 miles South of Northampton within easy access to all the main routes and 8 miles south of junction 15A on the M1. Morning sessions run from 10am to 1pm and afternoon sessions run from 2pm to 5pm.

Crocodiles Photo Workshop

Crocodiles are some of the most feared and yet revered predators on the planet. Photographing them is a real privilege but extremely difficult without travelling to the exotic locations where they live. I have joined forces with Shaun Foggett the owner of Britain’s first and only crocodile zoo to provide probably the very best opportunities to photograph these exceptional creatures in the UK; nowhere else will you have the opportunity to see such a wide collection of crocodiles, alligators and caimans. The zoo houses over 100 individuals representing more than 14 species including a Nile crocodiles, American alligators, extremely rare Siamese and Cuban Crocodiles and black caiman. These range from newly hatched babies to 3m long giants. All are housed in purposed built enclosures with large water and equally large land areas. The water areas have glass fronts providing excellent opportunities for underwater viewing and photography.

By special arrangement we will enter the enclosures with some species including the massive 3 meter American Alligators to achieve some awe inspiring shots with these magnificent reptiles just feet away from you. We will also photography baby crocodilians in a special set under artificial lights.

The zoo also has a collection of other reptiles including monitor lizards, snakes and terrapins. We will take a 5 foot monitor lizard out onto the grass (weather permitting) to get some fantastic “natural” shots.

As with all my workshops I aim to provide opportunities for you to learn about the animals you are photographing as well as the best photographic techniques for capturing images of them. Shaun and his staff will be with us all day and as well as handling and feeding the specimens will be happy to answer any of your questions about these amazing and persecuted reptiles.
Taking Control of Your Camera

Have you just bought a new digital SLR camera and are not sure how to use it?

Do you rely on the automatic modes built into the camera?

Do you want to achieve better results from your photographic efforts but are confused by how all those camera settings work?

Do you want to take control of your camera but are not sure where to start?

If so, then this workshop is just for you! With all the jargon and controls available on modern DSLR cameras photography can often seem very daunting. There are however only a few key controls and mastering these can completely alter the photos you take. With a healthy mixture of classroom and practical sessions my aim on this workshop is to provide a relaxing and comfortable setting where you can learn more about your camera and practise your new knowledge by taking some stunning photos. You will learn how to control aperture, shutter speed and ISO to produce more creative images.

The workshop is based at Icarus Falconry, a private falconry centre where I run my very popular specialist raptor photo days. Having worked with and run workshops at the centre for many years I have excellent working arrangements with the falconers. Unlike most similar centres these birds are trained and actively used for hunting so are in excellent condition, very keen and fit making them excellent subjects for you to practise your new found skills.

Guided Wildlife Photo Tours

Wild Europe

A 5 day escorted residential photographic workshop to photograph some of Europe’s most spectacular and enigmatic mammals in the Bavarian National Park.

2nd to 6th May 2018

Capture those “once in a life time” images of some of Europe’s most endangered and enigmatic species within the natural setting of the Bavarian Forest National Park. Grey wolves, brown bears, lynx, beavers and wild boar will be our main subjects on this unique workshop tour. Within the Park we will be able to photograph over 30 species of mountain and forest animals including mammals such as grey wolves, brown bears, lynx, wild boar, otters, European bison, wildcat, red deer, elk and birds such as capercaillie, black grouse and hazelhen and numerous birds of prey.

To run this very special photographic workshop I have teamed up with Gerhard Schwab a leading mammal ecologist who has worked extensively with Europe’s endangered mammals. Living in the area and as the current head of Southern Bavarian Beaver Management Group he knows this area and its iconic mammals better than most. We couldn’t ask for a more qualified and enthusiastic local guide.

With Gerhard as a co-leader part of this workshop/tour will include a very special afternoon session at a European beaver facility. This will provide unique photo opportunities with beavers in a natural wetland setting and highly realistic surroundings.
Guided Photo Safaris

I have excellent and long standing relationships with the camps I use in Africa and the tour operator I use in the UK. This year with their help I am able to offer all my Africa trips at a massively reduced price, well below many others who are offering the same trips. My first to the Masai Mara is almost £1,000 less than similar trips and the very special Southern Tanzanian one is available nowhere else.

The Big Cats of the Massai Mara - Rolling Plains of Africa

An escorted photographic workshop to Kenya's famous Massai Mara region.

9 nights – February March 2018

The Massai Mara is deservedly known as Africa’s greatest wildlife reserve, and is famous for the abundance of lion, the other big cats, the Great Wildebeest Migration and the Masai people. It is without a doubt Africa’s most well known and famous safari destination. The area has become well known having featured in many excellent TV programmes including the BBC’s long running “Big Cat Diaries” and “Big Cat Week” as well as the more recent Disney Nature’s “African Cats”. Staying in luxury bush camps the big cats will definitely be on our agenda but we will also have ample opportunities to photograph the wide variety of other wildlife this area supports.

Southern Tanzania – An unspoilt photographer’s paradise.

An escorted photographic workshop to a truly unspoilt photographer’s paradise.

Advanced bookings for September 2018 being taken

Many of the more well known East African safari destinations are becoming over crowded. Their sheer popularity and coverage on TV is becoming a problem for photographers wishing to observe wildlife in a more natural setting without the disturbance posed by other vehicles or photographers.

By comparison Southern Tanzania is far less frequented by the western tourist but yet has some largest and best preserved parks in East Africa. Southern Tanzania offers the real bush wilderness experience in an area with some of the purest remaining tracts of unspoilt game parks in Africa. It is home to a select group of national parks and reserves covering truly huge areas.

This is a photographic exploration of two of Africa’s finest wildlife areas - the vast Selous Game Reserve and wild Ruaha National Park in southern Tanzania. We spend the first part of the trip in the Selous exploring the Rufiji River (East Africa’s greatest waterway) and surrounding woodlands by boat and by vehicle, before heading off to Ruaha for the rest of the holiday and further spectacular wildlife viewing.

This is my longest, favourite and very popular destination. Safaris in these two areas of Southern Tanzania offer the true bush wilderness experience in an area with some of the purest remaining tracts of unspoilt game viewing in Africa. This is what all photographic safaris ought to be like.
Botswana and Zimbabwe – the Elephant Safari.

A private guided photographic workshop to two of Africa’s finest areas for elephant, birdlife, big cats and other game.

**Advanced bookings for September 2018 being taken**

As a wildlife photographer with a passion for Africa the challenge was to find a location near enough to airports to enable you to take your heavy camera gear but sufficiently isolated to ensure unspoilt game viewing in unspoilt areas. For this trip I have created a photo safari exploring two very different areas of central Southern Africa both well known for their elephant populations and bird life but with all the other game including the big cats in equal abundance.

We’ll be staying in two very different camps - the first using a private mobile camp in the Chobe National Park Botswana and the other in the Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe with an overnight stay in between giving us a chance to explore the world renowned Victoria Falls in the middle.

In Chobe we will be will also be chartering a unique boat that has been specifically designed for photographers. Check the link on the full details page – link below – for a video of this boat and its unique arrangements.

The camp we will be using in Zimbabwe’s Hwange National Park is a very new one, opening in 2012, and is owned and run by the famous professional safari guide Dave Carson.

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Northern Tanzania – Wildebeest Southern Migration and Ngoro Ngoro Carter.

A private guided photographic workshop timed for late February early March when every year roughly 1.5 million wildebeest gather on the short grass plains of the Southern Serengeti to give birth.

**2018 10 nights March**

Extraordinarily over 500,000 calves are born in the space of a few weeks. The spectacle is truly breath taking and as the plains cover many thousands of square miles the sense of space is overwhelming. The predators, especially the cats, take advantage of this proliferation of young animals and this is an excellent area to see cheetah, lions and hyena. At this time of year vultures and other carrion eaters gather in large numbers as part of nature’s efforts to keep the plains clean. We will also search for for the smaller but equally interesting animals, servals, caracals, striped hyenas and bat-eared foxes.

We will spend the majority of our time at Ndutu lodge a comfortable safari camp with a series of stone built cottages and a central dining area overlooking the lake Ndutu and the Ndutu plains. You will be able to watch game whilst you eat your meals or sup a drink at the bar! The camp is situated in an area right at the southernmost end of the Serengeti but crucially outside the reserve boundaries thus permitting off road driving. It’s in the very centre of the Wildebeest birthing plains and is often referred to as the Secret Serengeti.

We will also visit:

Lake Manyara National Park, the world famous Ngoro Ngoro Carter and Olduvai Gorge.