



BOTSWANA SAFARI

EMBARK ON A REMARKABLE WILDLIFE ADVENTURE

12 - 25 MAY 2021

Ignacio Palacios

**BOTSWANA
PHOTOGRAPHY
SAFARI**

Botswana is a country like no other. This spectacular untamed land boasts the most abundant and diverse wildlife in Africa and has proudly ushered in an era of luxury safari experiences that can't be matched anywhere in Africa.

Quite simply, Botswana is one of the great photography destinations.

On this signature photography tour, you'll embark on a privileged journey to four of Botswana's most pristine and photogenic destinations, and step across the border to witness the power of Victoria Falls. You'll glide across the rich floodplains of the Okavango, explore the majestic Moremi reserve on the hunt for predators and their prey, marvel at the natural beauty and wildlife of the iconic Chobe National Park, and photograph Mosi-oa-Tunya – the 'smoke that thunders'.

Proving adventure and comfort aren't mutually exclusive, you'll indulge in a selection of luxury lodges and experience the true definition of "glamping".

Most importantly, this exclusive tour has been carefully designed to inspire and transform your passion for photography. Under the expert guidance of master photographer Ignacio Palacios, you'll capture phenomenal game photos, shoot spectacular savannah sunrises, and venture into the night to photograph the stars and Africa's hidden nocturnal world.

Our Botswana photography tour promises heart-racing adventure, self-discovery, rich creativity and stories that will define your legacy.



HIGHLIGHTS

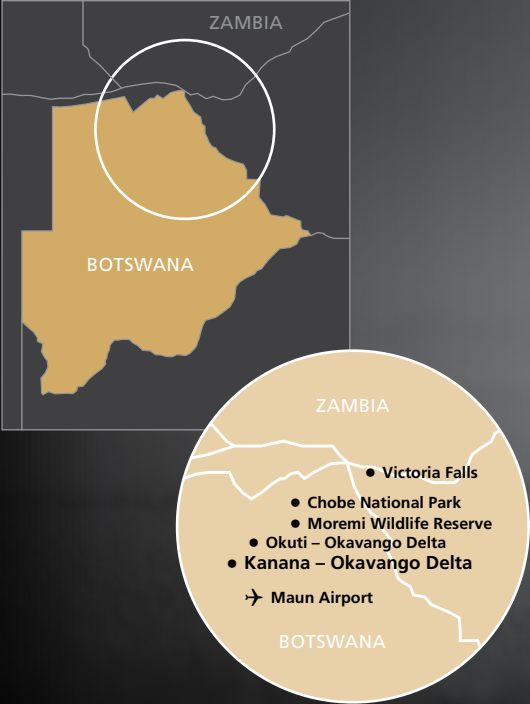
It's nearly impossible to define the highlights for a tour of this calibre, so instead let us tease you with just a taste of the adventure that awaits:

- You will witness the singular and unparalleled beauty of the Northern and Southern Delta
- Explore the elephant-rich Chobe National Park
- Photograph Moremi's abundant wildlife, breathtaking sunrises and unforgettable
- Shoot Victoria Falls, one of earth's greatest spectacles
- Come face to face with Africa's Big Five predators
- Discover the secret beauty, history and stories of Botswana from the most experienced guides in the country
- Get your heart-racing on night safaris in search of Botswana's nocturnal wildlife
- Indulge in a collection of boutique camps and lodges that cater exclusively to small groups of travellers
- Settle around a fire pit at night, listening to the sounds of Africa as you tune into nature and tune out your phone signal
- Transform your skills as photographer under the guidance of a master
- Finesse your processing prowess with one-on-one Photoshop and Lightroom tutorage
- Experience the powerful mastermind- effect of connecting with likeminded photographers and adventure seekers
- Tick off your wildlife photography bucket list as Botswana serves up a feast of fauna including lions, leopards, cheetahs, rhinos, elephants, hippopotami, buffalo, crocodiles, giraffes, zebra, antelope, wildebeest, and so much more.



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*“If I have ever seen magic,
it has been in Africa.”*
John Hemmingway



DAY 1-3 | 12, 13 and 14 May: The Southwest of the Okavango Delta

Our photography safari begins in the spectacular southwest of the Okavango Delta. There is nowhere in Africa more beautiful or photogenic than the Okavango Delta in its first flood, as the vast Kalahari sands turn into a wetland paradise with scatterings of waterlilies throughout the floodplains. The animals that have migrated in the green season will all start to make their way back to this watery paradise.

Meeting at Maun Airport, we'll take a short flight to reach the Kanana Lodge. A hidden jewel on the Xudum River, Kanana rests in a necklace of islands dotted with palms, figs, ebony and knobthorn, and is home to a myriad of native African animals, birds and plants. The nature of the habitat means it is the perfect place to photograph the diversity of species found within the Okavango Delta.

As we're travelling during the "miracle season" you'll have the privilege of shooting the annual transformation of the Delta's floodplains. Presenting you with the diversity of both picture-perfect wetlands and grasslands. At this time of year, you can expect clear blue skies, rising floodwaters, and an abundance of wildlife.

Over three days we'll embark on sunrise, morning, afternoon, evening and night photography safaris by 4x4 and boat. Should you wish, you can also explore the area by Mekoro. The Mekoro is a dugout canoe poled by an experienced poler in the shallower waters of the Okavango.

Reminiscent of the romantic safaris of the 1920s, your luxury tent is decorated in a classic safari style incorporating the land and water of the Okavango Delta in the experience. Your stay will be luxurious, comfortable and unforgettable.

"You don't take a photograph. You make it."
Ansel Adams



Herds of impala





DAY 4-6 | 15, 16 and 17 May: A Northern Okavango Delta Eden

On the second leg of our adventure, we journey to the breathtaking northern Okavango Delta – the closest thing to Eden left on the planet. Champagne-coloured rivers, palm-fringed waterways and lily-covered lagoons represent one of the largest wetland wildernesses in the world – a place where classic African wildlife thrives, and the photography experience is second-to-none.

After a short flight from the south to the north of the Delta, you'll be welcomed at the Shinde Camp. Nestled on a lush palm island in the heart of the northern Okavango Delta, Shinde is an intimate, classic camp that rests on a lagoon which simply teems with animal and birdlife.

As a private concession park, you'll enjoy an exclusive photography experience. Here we have the freedom to travel off-road, embark on night-drives, and the Shinde is one of the few lodges that offer walking safaris in the Okavango Delta – accompanied by expertly trained and armed guides of course.

Prepare yourself for phenomenal wildlife population, scenic landscapes, and countless moments of inspiration that will leave you with images in the hundreds.

The Shinde Camp provides a sense of exclusive luxury with only eight luxury tents and promises your every possible comfort will be catered for.

ITINERARY
CONTINUED

DAY 7-9 | 18, 19 and 20 May: The Moremi
Game Reserve

You’re about to spend three unforgettable days in the heart of the world-renowned Moremi Game Reserve.

The Moremi Game Reserve proudly boasts some of Africa’s densest concentration of wildlife. Home to the Big Five (lions, leopards, buffaloes, elephants and rhinos), one of Africa’s largest population of red lechwe, and so much more, you’ll feel as if you’ve stepped into a wildlife photographer’s paradise.

Our basecamp in the Moremi will be the private Okuti Lodge, which sits amidst the wilderness of one of Botswana’s prime game viewing regions. Making it the ideal location from which to enjoy multiple photography safari’s in specially designed vehicles.

While Moremi is celebrated for its big predators, we’ll also go in search of Africa’s smaller predators in residence including cheetah, spotted hyena, jackals, and wild dog, while the herbivore cast features giraffe, wildebeest, zebra, and an assortment of antelopes.

Awarded five-star status by the Botswana Tourism Board, Okuti is a delightful camp of spacious curved mosasas (ancient tribal word for house of reeds). Drawing its influence from the water that flows in front of the camp, Okuti will offer you an oasis of serenity and peacefulness between safaris.

“Immortality is to live your life. Doing great things and leaving your mark behind.”

Brandon Le



Lion cubs





DAY 10-13 | 21, 22, 23 and 24 May: The Iconic Chobe National Park and Victoria Falls

We mark the final stage of our photography safari in the one-and-only Chobe National Park. Let's be honest, you can't visit Botswana without shooting Chobe, which is not only famous for its elephants but is also recognised as one of the world's leading wildlife destinations.

After a short flight to the Kasane Airport, we'll arrive at the Machenje Safari Lodge, resting in the heart of the Chobe Forest Reserve. Machenje will spoil you with picturesque views and private photography safari tours of the Chobe River, which provides a permanent source of water for the region's high volume of wildlife, making the river an important focal point for our safari and wildlife photography.

Our tour will take us into the quieter (in terms of crowds) western region of Chobe National Park, renowned for its huge concentrations of elephant, hippo, Cape buffalo, lions, leopards, wild dogs, hyena, jackals, serval cats, caracal (lynx), honey badgers and crocodiles. The park's abundant plains are also home to giraffe, sable antelope, roan antelope, kudu, waterbuck, red lechwe, impala, puku, Chobe bushbuck, tsessebe, eland, duiker, warthog, steenbok and dazzles of zebra.

On one day we'll venture across the border to photograph the spectacle that is Victoria Falls. Truly a natural wonder of the world, Victoria Falls promises to be an unforgettable experience.

The Muchenje Safari Lodge itself one of Chobe's oldest and most established luxury safari lodges and you'll fall in love with your private cottage with its own private deck and vista across the Chobe River.

DAY 14 | 25 May: Journey home

Preparing for our fond farewell, we travel by plane to Maun Airport. From here, you begin your journey home.

A parade of giraffe and zebra

PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

“Adventure is a path. Real adventure, self-determined, self-motivated, often risky, forces you to have firsthand encounters with the world.”

Mark Jenkins



Central to this unforgettable tour is YOU. Through Ignacio’s guidance, you’ll not only learn the secrets of the masters, but you’ll take your photography skills to the next level and leave your South African adventure with a collection of powerful, moving photographs that you’ll share with pride.

Some of the photography skills you’ll learn throughout the tour include:

- The art of composition
- Post-processing techniques tips and tricks
- How to work with light
- Optimising your equipment and filters
- Pre-visualisation and the creative process
- The unique techniques of landscape photography, wildlife photography, portrait photography, while also touching on aerial, black and white, and night photography
- Ignacio will also be there to offer one-on-one guidance on other specific skills you’d personally like to master.

Camera Skills

The best way to learn the art of photography is by taking photos. So Ignacio will be by your side in the field sharing insight and guidance as you shoot. Helping you create great photos as you shoot. No matter your skill level or equipment, you’ll learn the craft with an award-winning master.

The Creative Process

Throughout the tour, you’ll also have the opportunity to process and enhance your images using Lightroom, Photoshop, Capture One and other editing software. Learning first-hand how to create photographs that tell a story, evoke emotion and ultimately help you find your unique style and personality as an artist.

Critique Session

Should you dream of entering competitions, or simply wish to push yourself as a photographer, critique sessions are an invaluable part of the learning process. Ignacio will offer one-on-one critique sessions during the tour. Providing constructive evaluation and feedback supported by recommendations and tips through the eyes of a professional. While having your work critiqued can feel overwhelming at first, this is one of the most powerful ways to improve your skills as a photographer.

Level of photography

All skills levels are welcome. Whether you’re a beginner or expert, the tour is designed to cover all aspects of image capture and post processing as it applies to where you are on your photography journey. As for equipment, we can help you optimise the equipment you chose to use from mobile phone to tablets, compact camera to digital SLR cameras.

Physical considerations

While you’ll be experiencing South Africa in style there will be times when the group needs to embark on a walk/hike to visit and photograph the best locations. As part of the pre-tour planning, we ask you share any existing health conditions with us so we may plan for your comfort and safety.



The mighty elephant





EXCLUSIVE
LUXURY

Accommodation

Each lodge has been carefully selected to immerse you in the best of Botswana’s luxury safari experience. Focusing on style, comfort, experience and exclusivity. In the event one of the lodges outlined in the itinerary becomes unavailable, an excellent alternative will be selected for you.

Travelling with your partner

Each location and lodge have also been selected to delight and entertain your partner, understanding they may not share your passion for photography. From private pools to hiking tours, mokoro boat tours to cultural activities, your partner may sleep-in and experience Botswana at their leisure while enjoy the luxury facilities and privileges.



Shinde Camp



Machenje Safari Lodge



Kanana Lodge



Okuti Lodge

“Photography is the story
I fail to put into words.”
Destin Sparks



IGNACIO PALACIOS

When it comes to photography and travel, few can rival Ignacio Palacios' experience, skill, and passion. A third-generation photographer, Ignacio has been honoured with over 100 prestigious photography prizes and awards from around the world and has travelled to over 90 countries in his 20 years career. It's little wonder he's developed a reputation as a leading photographer in the fields of travel, landscape, and nature photography.

Born in Spain, Ignacio now calls Sydney, Australia home – though his unmistakable Spanish spirit continues to influence his work and define his signature style.

Combining his love of travel and photography has proved a powerful combination, and today Ignacio leads some of the world's best photography tours to incredible destinations around the world. As an AIPP double Master of Photography, Ignacio shares his insight, experience, and technique with his clients to help them find their own success and joy on their photographic journey.

"My life is shaped by the urgent need to wander and observe, and my camera is my passport."
Steve McCurry

"I hope that through my images and my tours, I can open people's eyes to the incredible world we live in. I want to give my guests both travel and photographic experience. We are privileged to have such a beautiful planet and it's our responsibility to respect, cherish and protect it."

Ignacio's distinct, award-winning style can be defined by his mastery of composition, colour, and light. With his minimalistic style and unique ability to connect with his audience through storytelling through his images, Ignacio invites his audience to experience the subject not as how he captured it, but how he experienced it, evoking an emotional connection between the viewer, subject and artist.

Photography and travel will always be Ignacio's passion, and he is dedicated to helping others ignite their passion too.

www.iptravelphotography.com.au



Crouching leopard

CHECKLIST

“Why is it you can never hope to describe the emotion Africa creates? You are lifted. Out of whatever pit, unbound from whatever tie, released from whatever fear. You are lifted and you see it all from above.”
Francesca Marciano



Camera equipment

- DSLR. To bring a couple of bodies is always recommended. (check your baggage allowance with your airline/travel agent)
- Tripod with quick release plate
- Standard zoom, wide angle and telephoto lense
- Plenty of batteries and a couple of chargers
- Shutter cable release
- Polarising filter and ND filters
- Laptop computer with Photoshop and Lightroom and/or Capture One
- External backup drives (SSD recommended) and memory cards for storage
- As a Nikon photographer, Ignacio plans to bring two bodies and lenses that cover the range of 24mm to 400mm plus a x1.4 teleconverter, a 24-70mm f2.8 70-200mm f2.8 and possibly a 180-400 f4 and a 400mm f2.8 prime.

What to bring, clothing and other

- Water bottle (1lt) to avoid the use of plastic bottles for mineral water. Our guide will make sure to refill your bottle whenever necessary.
- Sun block and sun glasses (protection against UV)
- Hat
- The temperatures in May are relatively mild reaching on the rare occasion 10°C/50°F in the morning and up to 28°C/80°F in the afternoon
- We recommend comfortable clothing made of fabric that breaths (such as cotton) and pack a combination of short sleeve and long sleeve top and pant options
- Comfortable hiking boots
- And you may wish to bring swimwear to take adventure of the pools in our lodges.

Luggage preparations

- Additional luggage allowances have been arranged across all of your internal flights for your convenience
- We recommend you shrink-wrapping your baggage at your departure airport
- Ensure your telephoto lenses are packing in protective casings designed for this specific lens
- We also suggest you carry your camera equipment as carry-on luggage where possible in the event your luggage is delayed or lost, you can still shoot the moment you arrive.

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to cancel this workshop. In the event of this happening, all payments received will be refunded but participants shall have no further claim against IP Travel Photography arising from such cancellation. Any such refund will not include payments for any bookings for other services made in addition to the itinerary outlined above. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancelation insurance prior to paying the first deposit.

To reserve your place for 2021 or to make an enquiry, please email ignacio@iptravelphotography.com.au



Feasting lion pride

TERMS
AND
CONDITIONS



WORKSHOP DATES AND PRICES

Tour dates: 12 – 25 May 2021
Tour commences and finishes as Maun Airport, Botswana
Standard trip: US\$17,990 per person, twin share; Optional single supplement: US\$4,990
Maximum 8-10 participants
A deposit of US\$3,000 is required when you book the workshop

Terms of payment

- A deposit of US\$3,000 must be paid to secure your place. The deposit is non-refundable unless you can sell your place to someone else
- Note: the workshop is quoted in US\$. To calculate the rate in AU\$, the currency exchange rate will be obtained from the Westpac website at the time of transferring the deposit and balance (<https://www.westpac.com.au/personal-banking/services/currency-converter/>). If you are located outside Australia, I accept payments in US\$ through PayPal only
- The Registration Form must be filled in and signed by each participant at the time of paying the first deposit. Participation will be declined otherwise
- The remaining balance must be paid on or before **30 January 2020**
- Bookings will be accepted strictly in the order they are received
- Important: the workshop requires a minimum of 6 participants to run so please don't book your flights until the trip has been confirmed.

What's included

- Full 14 day and 13 night tour
- All meals and accommodation
- All excursions
- English speaking guide
- Park and reserve fees
- Internal flights and transfers
- Local taxes.

What's not included

- Flights to and from Maun Airport
- Accommodation and meals prior to or following the expedition
- Travel, cancellation and equipment insurances
- Visas
- Alcohol consumption, extra beverages or souvenirs
- Laundry services
- Other personal expenses
- Tips and gratuities.

Note on tips: gratuities for local guides, hotel staff, butlers etc. are not included on this tour. However, if you feel that any staff has given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them. We emphasize that such tips should be at your own discretion and based solely on the level of your service satisfaction.

Cancellation Policy

A written notice of any cancellation must be received by you at which time the following cancellation fees will apply:

- If cancelled between 1 November 2020 and 31 December 2020, 50% of the workshop cost will be payable
- If cancelled after 1 January 2021, a fee equal to 100% of the workshop cost will be payable
- Failure to pay by the due dates will be considered a cancellation of the booking and fees paid will be non-refundable

- Bookings made after 1 November 2020 must be paid in full
- No refunds will be made for unused portions of the workshop. The photography workshop is sold as a land package (no airfares included)
- Cancellation fees are not transferable.

Camera gear

There is really no limit to what camera gear you take. Check with your airline about weight restrictions. Whatever level of camera equipment you have, we will help to ensure you get the most out of it. Check the camera equipment checklist at the end of the brochure but if you want to discuss specific equipment for this trip, please contact me.

Fitness and health considerations

Sometimes participants will be required to walk on uneven terrain or tracks and hiking. A basic level of walking fitness will help, but this tour is not a hiking tour or a trekking tour so nothing extreme will be required. If you have concerns about your own capabilities or health, please check with your doctor before booking a place. By signing the Registration Form, you guarantee that to the best of your knowledge, you do not have any physical or other disability that could create a risk for you or other tour participants. Once a booking has been accepted by IP Travel Photography, medical circumstances will not be

accepted as an exemption to the Cancellation Policy above.

Within the Registration Form, please indicate any health issues, allergies or dietary requirements. IP Travel Photography does not assume any responsibility or liability for medical care or special dietary requirements. If a participant becomes ill during the workshop, IP Travel Photography reserves the right to continue the tour for the benefit of the rest of the participants. IP Travel Photography will make every effort to assist you whilst trying to minimize disruption of the workshop for other participants.

Visas

U.S. citizens (U.S. passport holders) visiting the Republic of South Africa for ninety (90) days or less for tourism/business purposes do not need visas

Australian citizens visiting South Africa for tourism purposes for a period of up to 90 days, you don't need a visa

For all other nationalities refer to www.dha.gov.za for more information.

Rights

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to:

- Substitute hotels/ accommodation
- Make changes in the itinerary or transport if required due to changes in airline schedules, or when necessary. We may be forced to change or alter the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware, however,

that we will attempt to stick as close to the original program as possible

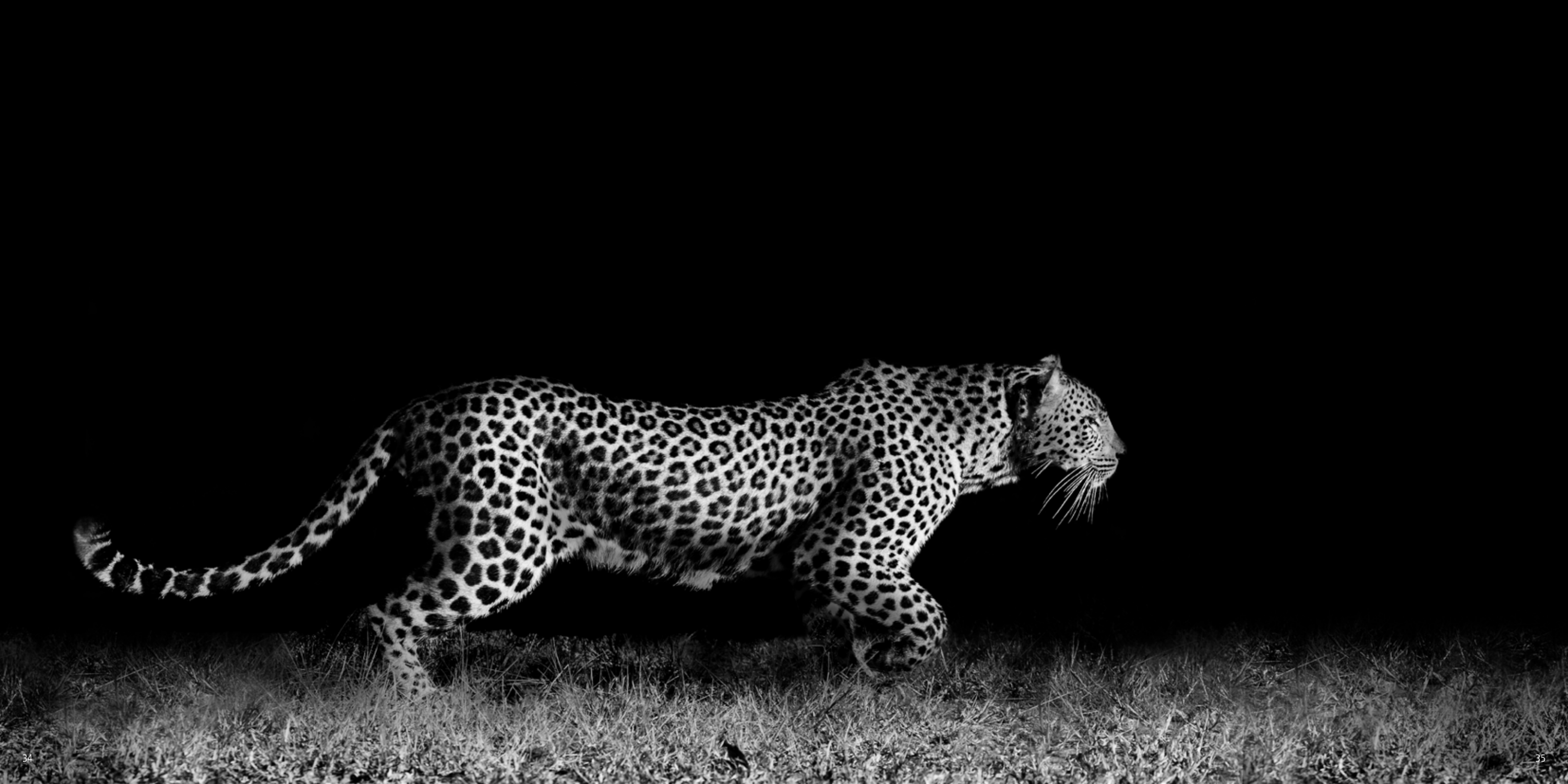
- Cancel the workshop prior to departure, in which case a full refund of all payments received will be given. If such an event occurred, IP Travel Photography will not be responsible for any other expenses such as non-refundable air fares, visa fees and other related expenses. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit
- Substitute the tour leader and guest photographer as originally specified, in which case this substitution will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Run the photography workshop without the guest photographer if the group size is less than 6 participants. This will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Accept or refuse any person as a participant in the workshop
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to adverse currency exchange fluctuations, airline schedule changes, fuel and tax price charges
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to major unforeseen increases in expedition related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

Liability

The operation of the workshop is at the sole discretion of Ignacio Palacios (IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd), having in mind the wellbeing and interests of all participants and the safe and sensible operation of the program as specified within this itinerary IP Travel Photography does not accept any liability for the acts, omissions or default, whether negligent or otherwise of third party providers IP Travel Photography disclaims liability for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or trouble caused by force majeure or any other event which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on IP Travel Photography's part.

IP Travel Photography

IP Travel Photography is an ASIC business name with Australian Business Number 16578586693 and registered in Australia under the Business Names Registration Act 2011. IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd (Ignacio Palacios) will guide and provide photography tuition to all participants during the tour. IP Travel Photography is not a travel agent or travel service provider.











**TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE FOR 2021
OR TO MAKE AN ENQUIRY, PLEASE EMAIL
IGNACIO@IPTRAVELPHOTOGRAPHY.COM.AU**



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