Zimbabwe Photography Tour
Why Zimbabwe?

The more I travel, the more I realise that so many travellers are after authentic experiences and the opportunity to do some good in the world. On making this realisation I thought about my regular family trips to Zimbabwe (my partner is Zimbabwean) and a light bulb went off in my mind. These family trips actually fulfil a need in me that many other experiences don’t.

In Zimbabwe I am not just a traveller, I am family. Every day that I’m visiting I experience Zimbabwe like a local, and over time my local experience has opened my eyes to important tourism, education and conservation matters.

I believe that you CAN travel like a local while also enjoying the creature comforts and security of home. I believe that you can have an incredible holiday and make life-long friends, but also be involved with conservation and have awareness of important causes. I believe that photography can enrich your life and help to create lasting memories of your travels, but there are also times to put the camera down and soak in the moment.

I choose to offer this tour to Zimbabwe because it brings together three of my greatest passions in life: conservation, education and photography.
Experience “Wild is Life” Sanctuary in Harare for their popular afternoon tour, including a decadent high tea, the opportunity to meet the local animals and a chance to start practising your photography before getting out in the field. Wild is Life is an established and genuine Wildlife Sanctuary, caring for injured, orphaned and rescued wildlife. Their cornerstone philosophy is “One by One”, respecting each animal in their care as an individual and sentient being.

Web: http://www.wildislife.com/

Embark on a “Money Can’t Buy” excursion deep into the rural heart of Zimbabwe to meet our family. Enjoy learning about the day-to-day life of the locals and try to make sense of the complicated family relationships. (As a Muroora, daughter-in-law, there are many unspoken rules to my duties and conduct within the family.) Enjoy the local food, cooked over the fire, a walk around the village and the drop toilet if you dare. It’s my visits to the “rural” that inevitably make my trips to Zimbabwe, but don’t worry, we’ll return to the hotel that night. (No showers in the creek this time.)

Web: https://victoriafallstourism.org

One of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World, Victoria Falls has to be seen to be believed and is well worth the long drive from one end of the country to the other. Enjoy your first luxury lodge experience and plenty of activities in the area to keep you busy. (Plus optional adventure tours for the brave!) Finally, brace yourself for a visit to the BEST part of Victoria Falls, the Zimbabwe side. One thing is for sure, you will get wet!

Web: https://victoriafallstourism.org
Zimbabwe Highlights

All aboard the “Elephant Express”, it’s time to safari! Hwange National Park is the largest natural reserve in Zimbabwe and is home to large elephant herds, lions and African wild dogs. Three nights in a handpicked safari lodge will give you ample opportunity to photograph dozens of animal species, soak up some sunsets and enjoy plenty of downtime in the African bush. In Hwange we can start to really sink our teeth into some wildlife photography, if that’s what you want. Otherwise, there’s always wine and great company.

Bumi Hills Safari Lodge in itself is reason enough to visit Lake Kariba, but the true motivation for this stop is to learn about conservation from the legends at the Bumi Hills Foundation. Nick Milne and his team work tirelessly to protect the local wildlife, while also pursuing six objectives for longterm success in the region. Your visitation will provide much needed awareness to the rest of the world and you can feel good about contributing to the protection of animals for future generations.

Zimbabwe is a truly special destination that will touch each person on the trip in a meaningful way as you tour around with Emmanuel and me. As a teacher I am able to motivate you to be the best version of yourself. I can help you improve your photography skills, grow your social media audience, even teach you how to break into the industry as a professional. And if you’re just in it for the travel, I promise I will give you the best experience I can and share my massive passion for Zimbabwe with you.

Web: https://www.bumihillsfoundation.org
Everything you need to know

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Day One: Arrive and rest. For those arriving early enough I will organise a welcome dinner (Harare)
Day Two: AM Morning at leisure PM “Wild is Life” afternoon tour (Harare)
Day Three: Rural Zimbabwe experience (Harare)
Days Four to Six: Depart Harare for Victoria Falls and enjoy three nights in the area
Days Seven to Nine: Depart Victoria Falls for Hwange National Park onboard the “Elephant Express”, stay in a luxury Safari Lodge (3 nights)
Days Ten to Twelve: Depart the area by plane for Bumi Hills, experience local tours and conservation activities (3 nights)
Day Thirteen: Return to Harare and overnight before departure the following day
Day Fourteen: Depart Zimbabwe

WHAT CAMERA GEAR DO YOU NEED?

Since this is the “not-just-about-photography” Photography Tour, it is completely up to you what you bring; you may not wish to focus on photography at all.

However, if you do want to take the opportunity to shoot with me I advise bringing (at the very least) a camera with an interchangeable lens system that can shoot manually and at least two lenses, including a telephoto (zoom) lens.

HOW TO BOOK?

Fill out the expression of interest form on my website and wait to hear from me!
**Personal Testimonials**

“Lauren Bath is Australia’s most well known and respected professional Instagrammer. I have always admired her work, particularly her professional attitude and behaviour on social media. Over the years, I have participated in several Photography Tours that Lauren hosted in conjunction with Gold Coast Tourism and I always found her very generous with her time, kind to everyone and willing to share her knowledge freely. Basically, despite her “Insta fame”, she is an all round good person and very down to earth. What I love most about Lauren is her willingness to give up her very valuable time and her genuine quest to help make the Social Media Photography and the Destination Marketing industry a better place not only for Influencers but Clients and Participants as well. She is a true credit to the industry and deserves all of the many accolades she gets.”

- Jules Ingall, Influencer

“I knew Lauren initially through attending one of her brilliant Travel Bootcamp workshops, but was lucky enough to get to know her personally when I won a weekend mentoring session with her through the Choice TravelGrammer 2017 competition. Throughout the competition itself and the mentoring weekend, Lauren was beyond generous with her knowledge and her time. She went above and beyond in sharing her expertise and experience, and was invaluable when helping me structure the business side of my photography. She has an easy and relatable way of teaching and explaining, and a sincere desire to help educate and mentor those emerging within the industry. Lauren is totally approachable, she is genuine and easy to get along with, and best of all is great fun! I spent as much time laughing during the weekend as I did learning! I would highly recommend Lauren as a teacher/mentor to anyone interested in any of her workshops, tours or other services on offer. Her advice and knowledge is invaluable.”

- Georgie Mann, Influencer

“I’ve known Lauren for about 3 years. We first met at an Instameet she had organised. My first thought on meeting ‘Australia’s first professional Instagrammer’ was ‘wow she’s so humble’. Meeting Lauren at the very start of my career in the industry proved to be life changing for me. I can honestly say that her guidance has been the main reason I’ve not only been able to follow my passion but to be paid to do it. She is always there not only for me but for anyone who reaches out to her. For someone so busy she always finds time to help out others which proves my thoughts that she is not only very intelligent, but also a truly genuine & driven person who is passionate & dedicated to sustaining an integral & honest industry. I’m very fortunate to have Lauren not only as a great mentor but also a friend.”

- Casey Eveleigh, Photographer