

19 - 28 NOVEMBER 2027

FIRST RAINS, NEW LIFE
SABI SABI AND MASHATU

PHOTO SAFARI **WITH CALVIN KOTZE**

FEATURED CONTENT

INTRODUCTION 3
HIGHLIGHTS 4
PRICING AND DETAILS 6
YOUR SAFARI 7
YOUR LOGISTICS OVERVIEW 8
YOUR JOURNEY 9
YOUR GUIDE 11
YOUR ACCOMMODATION 12



INTRODUCTION

An impala lamb stands close to its mother, watching the movement around it. Across the bush, the first rains begin to soften the dry landscape, bringing fresh leaves, new grass and a change in the rhythm of wildlife activity. November is a time of transition, with young animals, returning birds and changing skies adding new possibilities to each day in the field.

This nine-night safari combines four nights at MalaMala in the Sabi Sands with four nights at Mashatu Lodge in Botswana, following an arrival night in Johannesburg. The two reserves offer contrasting photographic settings, from the riverine habitats and bushveld of MalaMala to Mashatu's open landscapes, riverbeds and large trees.

The photographic interest extends beyond the young animals themselves. Family interactions, feeding behaviour and the movements of predators provide reasons to spend time observing a scene. Fresh foliage and changing weather introduce different backgrounds and lighting conditions, while the contrast between the two reserves encourages you to explore both close portraits and wider environmental compositions.

Led by wildlife photographer and nature guide Calvin Kotze, the safari combines time in the field with practical photographic guidance. Private vehicles at both reserves allow the group to work together around sightings, positioning and photographic interests. With a maximum of six guests, there is time to ask questions, develop your approach and make the most of the opportunities that unfold.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

- Photograph young wildlife and the interactions between mothers, offspring and family groups.
- Explore predator behaviour and photographic opportunities during the transition into the summer season.
- Work with contrasting settings, from MalaMala's bushveld and riverine habitats to Mashatu's open landscapes and riverbeds.
- Use fresh foliage, changing skies and seasonal light to develop portraits and environmental compositions.
- Enjoy private safari vehicles at both reserves, allowing a shared focus on photography.
- Receive practical guidance from Calvin Kotze on camera technique, animal behaviour and composition.

SAFARI HIGHLIGHTS

- Four nights at MalaMala in the Sabi Sands.
- Four nights at Mashatu Lodge in Botswana.
- One arrival night at the InterContinental Hotel at OR Tambo International Airport.
- A small group limited to a maximum of six guests.
- Guided throughout by Calvin Kotze.
- Private safari vehicles at both reserves.
- Road transfers connecting Johannesburg, MalaMala and Mashatu.



PRICING & DETAILS

$ 13 400
SHARING COST P/P

$ 16 800
SINGLE COST P/P

19 - 28 NOVEMBER 2027
9 NIGHTS | 10 DAYS

DETAILS

SERVICE STARTS	O.R. Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg
SERVICE ENDS	O.R. Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg
TOUR	First Rains, New Life Sabi Sabi and Mashatu
YOUR GUIDE	Calvin Kotze
MAXIMUM GUESTS	6 Guests
DEPOSIT	30% Deposit confirms your booking. Balance payable 8 weeks before tour start date.

A detailed pre-departure document detailing climate, clothing, travel logistics, travel information, camera gear and other safari information will be sent to you 6 weeks prior to your departure date.

✓ THE ABOVE COSTS INCLUDE

- Accommodation as specified in the itinerary.
- Road transfers between Johannesburg, MalaMala and Pont Drift as specified in the itinerary.
- Scheduled transfers between Pont Drift Border and Mashatu Lodge.
- Calvin Kotze as your photographic guide throughout the safari.

At MalaMala

- Air-conditioned, en-suite accommodation in a Luxury Room.
- All meals, including brunch and dinner.
- Morning and afternoon teas.
- All stocked beverages.
- Game drives in open 4-wheel-drive safari vehicles conducted by an experienced ranger.
- A private safari vehicle for the group.
- Nature walks.
- Limited laundry.
- Community levy.

At Mashatu Lodge

- Accommodation and meals.
- Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages, excluding premium brands.
- Two game drives per day in open 4-wheel-drive safari vehicles conducted by experienced rangers and trackers.
- A private safari vehicle for the group.
- Conservation levies.
- Wi-Fi and laundry.
- Scheduled transfers to and from Pont Drift Border.

X COSTS NOT INCLUDED

- International and other flights.
- Accommodation and meals not specified in the itinerary.
- Premium beverages at Mashatu Lodge.
- Sabi Sand Reserve entrance fee for arrival by road.
- Telecommunication costs at MalaMala.
- Transfers not specified in the itinerary.
- Visas and vaccinations. Obtaining the necessary visas is the responsibility of the traveller.
- Additional activities not specified in the itinerary.
- Purchases of a personal nature.
- Gratuities to staff and guides.
- Travel insurance.

Our full terms and conditions are available on request or can be viewed by following this link

CONFIRM YOUR PLACE NOW

YOUR SAFARI

DAY 1 - 2

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, JOHANNESBURG

1 NIGHT

Your safari begins at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, with an overnight stay at the InterContinental Hotel. This arrival night allows time to rest after your journey before departing for MalaMala the following morning.

DAY 2 - 6

MALAMALA

4 NIGHTS

On the morning of 20 November, you will depart Johannesburg by road for MalaMala in the Sabi Sands. After arrival and settling into your room, the focus turns to exploring the reserve and the photographic opportunities ahead.

Over the next four nights, morning and afternoon game drives provide time to work with wildlife across the reserve. November brings the possibility of early rains and new growth, with young animals adding another dimension to sightings. Time spent observing a family group or following a developing interaction can be as rewarding as searching for the next subject.

A private safari vehicle allows the group to approach each outing with photography in mind. Calvin will help you consider camera settings, composition and the behaviour in front of you, adapting his guidance to your experience and interests. Between activities, there is time to rest, review images and prepare for the next drive.

DAY 6 - 10

MASHATU LODGE

4 NIGHTS

After your stay at MalaMala, you will travel by road to Pont Drift Border. Here, a Mashatu driver will meet you for the onward transfer to Mashatu Lodge, your base for the next four nights.

Mashatu introduces a different setting for your photography. Open terrain, riverbeds and large trees create opportunities to place wildlife within the landscape, while elephants, predators and birdlife provide a range of subjects to explore. The arrival of the summer season may bring fresh growth and changing skies, with conditions shaping each outing.

Two daily game drives in a private safari vehicle allow time to explore with experienced rangers and trackers. Calvin will continue to provide photographic guidance, helping you work with different backgrounds, anticipate behaviour and develop images that reflect both the wildlife and its surroundings.

DAY 10

DEPARTURE

On 28 November, you will transfer from Mashatu Lodge to Pont Drift Border and continue by road to OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, where your First Rains, New Life safari comes to an end.

YOUR LOGISTICS OVERVIEW

DAY	TRANSFERS	ACCOMODATION
DAY 1 19 November	• Arrive at O.R. Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg.	INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL 1 NIGHT
DAY 2 20 November	• Road transfer from Johannesburg to MalaMala	MALAMALA 4 NIGHTS
DAY 6 24 November	• Road transfer to Pont Drift Border; onward transfer to Mashatu Lodge with a Mashatu driver	MASHATU LODGE 4 NIGHTS
DAY 10 28 November	• Transfer to Pont Drift Border; road transfer to OR Tambo International Airport	-



YOUR JOURNEY











YOUR GUIDES



CALVIN KOTZE

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER & NATURE GUIDE

Calvin Kotze is a professional wildlife photographer and nature guide based in South Africa. His lifelong interest in the natural world led him to begin his guiding career in 2010, where he combined his knowledge of animal behaviour with a growing passion for wildlife photography.

Over the years, Calvin has developed a photographic approach grounded in patience, ethical practice and an understanding of wildlife. Observing a subject and anticipating its behaviour are central to the way he works, allowing time for an encounter to develop and for photographs to emerge from it.

Calvin has spent years teaching wildlife photography and post-processing, helping photographers of different experience levels refine their skills and develop their creative vision. His teaching extends from practical decisions in the field to the editing process, supporting guests as they build confidence with their cameras and their images.

Whether guiding a photographic safari, mentoring a developing photographer or working on his own photographs, Calvin is committed to sharing meaningful experiences in nature. He brings together his guiding background and photographic knowledge to help guests understand their subjects and explore their own way of photographing them.

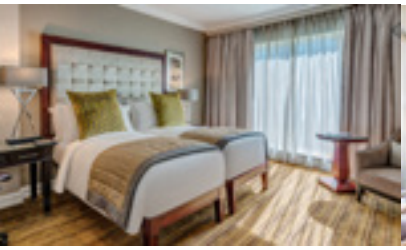
YOUR ACCOMODATION

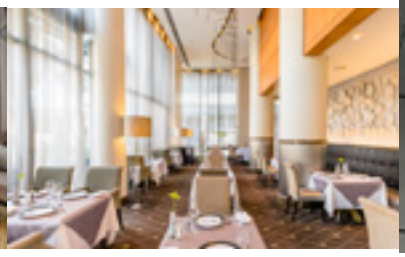
INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL

Located a short walk from the airport terminal, the InterContinental Johannesburg O.R. Tambo provides a comfortable place to rest before your safari begins. Well-appointed rooms offer a quiet retreat after your flight, with time to settle in and prepare for the journey ahead.

An overnight stay here allows you to begin the following morning refreshed for your road transfer to MalaMala.







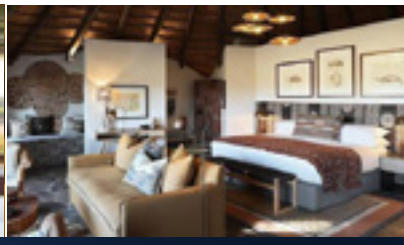


MALAMALA CAMP

Set within the Sabi Sands, MalaMala combines comfortable accommodation with access to a landscape of riverine woodland and bushveld. Air-conditioned Luxury Rooms with en-suite bathrooms provide a restful retreat between photographic outings, while meals and shared spaces create time to relax and reflect on the day's sightings.

With four nights here and a private safari vehicle for the group, your stay allows time to settle into the reserve and explore its wildlife with Calvin.





YOUR ACCOMODATION

MASHATU LODGE

Set in Botswana's Northern Tuli Game Reserve, Mashatu Lodge provides a welcoming base among the reserve's riverbeds, open plains and large trees. Spacious suites offer comfort and privacy between game drives, with air-conditioned interiors providing a retreat during the warmer hours of the day.

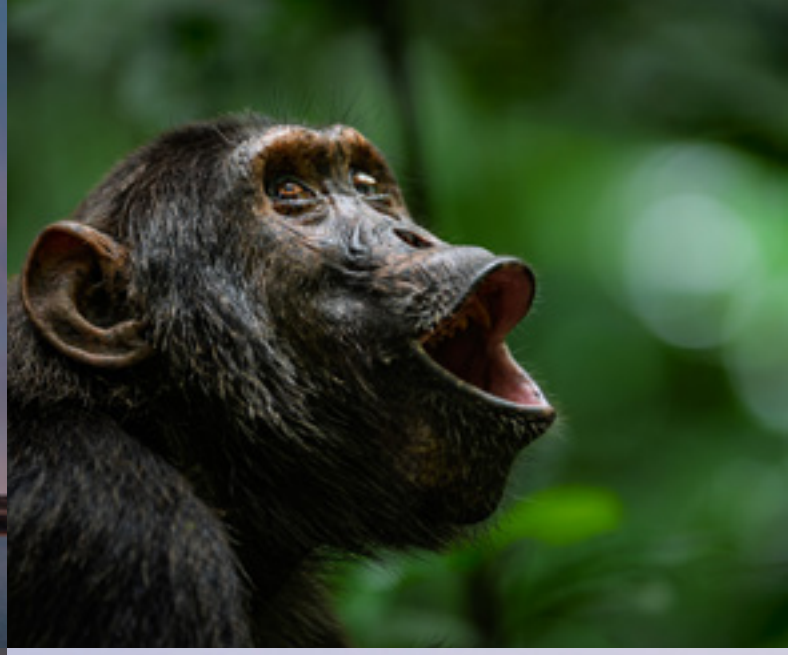
Four nights at the lodge allow you to settle into the rhythm of Mashatu, balancing photographic outings in your private safari vehicle with time to rest and review your images.

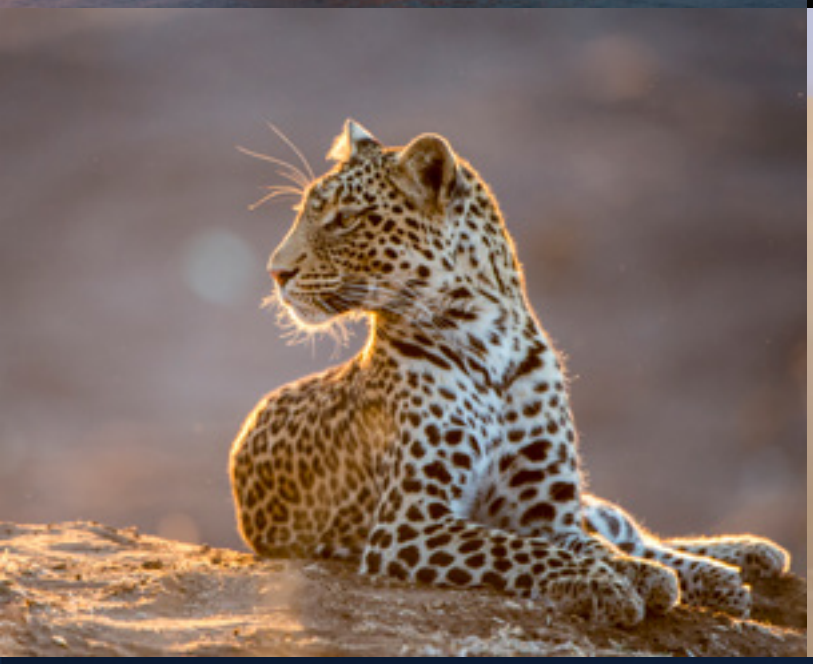














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