

# **Tuli Londilozi Photo Workshop**

## **May 16-25, 2026**

**Wilderness Travel**  
**by Thom**  
**Capricorn Safaris**







# Tuli Londolozi Workshop

*May 16 to 25, 2024*

This workshop is being offered for the first time, combining exotic Botswana and South African destinations.

*Instructors:* Thom Hogan and Shane Hedges

There's a lot of Southern Africa that people don't hear much about. Okavango dominates the Botswana scene, while Kruger Park dominates the South African one.

This workshop combines locations on either side of the Botswana/South African border in a unique way.

Our destination on this lodge-based photography safari workshop is completely wildlife-related, and combines two less-frequently mentioned, yet still exciting, locations.

You're here to learn about and photograph African animals and birds, and you'll be doing it in the Mahatsu Game Reserve in the Tuli Block of Botswana, and in the Londolozi Private Reserve on the Sand River in South Africa. Londolozi is a Zulu word and means "protector of all living things" and is notorious for its leopards.



We've designed this trip for anyone who wants to see and photograph lion, cheetah, wild dog, buffalo, elephant, giraffe, baboon, monkey, warthog, wildebeest, zebra, any of almost two dozen antelope species, and on occasion, hippopotamus. But wants to do so in new and unique terrain.



This workshop is designed, guided, and taught by wildlife photographer Thom Hogan. Shane Hedges, Thom's long-time Botswana guide will be along as our second instructor and facilitator. Both instructors scouted the Tuli area in 2023 to find the right spots for this workshop.

The trip starts in Maun and links up with the Okavango 2026 workshop for those who want a full month of wildlife safari-ing.



The Tuli Block is a narrow strip of land on the Limpopo River wedged in between Zimbabwe and South Africa, and was at the bottom edge of the huge lake that many millennia ago filled most of what we today call Botswana.

Tuli is unique terrain for Botswana: Tuli is rocky instead of sandy, and it houses Botswana's largest private game reserve. While this is in great contrast to almost all the other animal reserves that Botswana has protected, it has just as many



animals and birds to photography, some of them unique to the Tuli area.

All wildlife photos in this brochure were taken on a scouting trip using a similar itinerary.

There are no photographic capability prerequisites for this trip, though we believe that it will be of most interest to photographers who are already comfortable with their basic equipment and wish to get specialized education and experience in wildlife photography. Thom and Shane have decades of experience giving each workshop student exactly the level of help they require, from beginner to expert.



Thus we welcome students at all skill levels on this trip, and with a low 4.5:1 maximum student to teacher ratio, everyone should get plenty of personal time with the instructors. We also maintain a 3:1 student to local driver/guide ratio, too, meaning that you'll have plenty of help finding and identifying animals and their behaviors.

## Day 1 (May 16) Fly to Tuli

Early this morning we'll hop into two Cessna Caravans and fly across the huge, empty expanse at Botswana's center. The goal is to get to the Tuli Block preserve mid-day, and head to our lodge for lunch. After settling into our rooms and having mid-afternoon tea, half the group will go on their first land safari with one instructor, while the other half will go to a hide on a remarkable small pond with the other instructor. We split the group to keep the hide from being cramped (but don't worry, keep reading). **Overnight at Mashatu Lodge (L, D)**



*Mashatu Lodge is a modern permanent camp close to the Limpopo Valley airport, and each luxury suite is air-conditioned, with a full en-suite bath and a built-in desk area. Besides two swimming pools, the lodge also has a small Discovery Room, which is a bit like a small museum. Let's put it this way, you're not going to think you're in Africa, but all you have to do is walk out of your suite and you'll know you are!*

## Day 2 (May 17) Explore Tuli

The Mashatu area we're at here in the Tuli Block is well known for its elephants, but it has virtually all of the wildlife you'd expect in Africa from small birds to the big cats.

The group that didn't go to the hide yesterday will do so this morning, while the one's that have already been at the hide will take a safari into the rocky nearby terrain. Nobody misses out: you'll get both unique safari rides as well as hide experiences; we're just alternating when who does what when. In the afternoon, those at the hide in the morning will get another go at it, while the others safari nearby. **Overnight at Mashatu Lodge (B, L, D)**

## Day 3 (May 18) More Tuli

On the morning of our third day, those that haven't had a morning hide experience will get their chance, while the others again safari. Our afternoon will be another excellent safari through new territory, and with one difference: your bags will be transferred to a new lodge while we're out on safari. We do this because each lodge in the block has slightly different terrain in which to photograph, and we want to provide you the widest possible experience in this

unique area. **Overnight at Tuli Safari Lodge (B, L, D)**

*Tuli Safari Lodge is a little more rustic, using permanent tents for accommodations. But that doesn't mean you give up much. The grounds here have one of the better sunset points in the area, though we usually do our sundowners at an even more fantastic location. The last time Thom and Shane were here, they photographed mating leopards on top of a rock formation just across from the sundowner spot. Even cats like romance.*





## Day 4-5 (May 19-20) Even More Tuli

We'll bid the hides goodbye and use our Land Cruisers to take more extensive safaris through the area. There's a lot in the Tuli Block preserve to see, and each area provides different safari experiences. Our contact with the other Mashatu lodges also helps us understand where the big attractions are, and we can usually get to them from our location, if necessary.

**Overnight in Tuli Safari Lodge (B, L, D)**

## Day 6 (May 21) Fly to Londolozi

It's time to finish up in Botswana and head to another private reserve, this time in South Africa. We'll say goodbye to our Tuli guides as we leave the Limpopo airstrip on a Caravan in a flight to Londolozi, where we meet up with our South African crew. By lunch we'll be in camp, and once again we'll have an afternoon safari, now in private lands adjacent to Kruger National Park. **Overnight in Varty Camp (B, L, D)**

## Day 7-9 (May 22-24) Explore Londolozi

For three full days we'll be in non-stop safari mode, with morning, afternoon, and

sometimes evening drives as we photograph the animals in this great game reserve, looking particularly for the leopards the area is well known for. **Overnight in Varty Camp (B, L, D)**

## Day 10 (May 25) Fly Off

Our great safari has to come to an end, and it does so with a brief late morning flight to OR Tambo International airport, where you'll be bused from the charter terminal to the main terminal.





We'll be there in plenty of time to check in for flights back home, as they all pretty much leave in the evening. **(B)**



The goal of this trip is to come back home with plenty of high quality images to show your friends, neighbors, and others. Along the way, to see nature in a unique part of the world, up close and personal.

It isn't about the equipment you bring. It's about being in the right place, at the right time, with the right guides and instructors. Which is our goal in putting together and executing this trip for you.

--Thom Hogan, by Thom



## Pricing

**US\$17,760** includes all lodging, food, and transportation as described above, as well as workshop fees for both photography instructors.

*Internal Flight fees US\$5995 (Maun to Tuli, Tuli to Londolozi, Londolozi to Johannesburg)*

*Single Supplement (1 available): US\$3400*

*There are no park fees, as they're covered by the lodge costs*

We separate out the internal flight costs as additional charges because unfortunately they are subject to change outside our control.

*This trip begins in Maun on May 16, and ends in Johannesburg on May 25.*

## Tipping

It is customary, but entirely at your discretion, to tip driver/guides as well as lodge crews and chefs.

Clients regularly ask us to provide tipping guidelines that would suitably award the guides and camp staff for particularly outstanding service. We'll provide suggested tip guidelines in an email to those who are signed up for the trip.

## Payment Schedule

US\$1800 non-refundable deposit due at time of reservation. The balance is due 120 days prior to departure.

## Cancellation Fee Schedule

\* Up to 120 days prior to departure: first deposit, as above

\* 120 days or less: 100% of land cost

*Rates are based on group participation and no partial refunds will be given for unused trip arrangements for any reason whatsoever. We highly recommend that all clients purchase trip cancellation insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See: [www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance).*

## Not Included in Pricing

Not included is: (1) Airfare to Maun, Botswana from your home or from Johannesburg to your home on return, and any airport taxes that might be associated with that. (2) Personal expenses (e.g. passports, visas, and liquor, sodas, souvenirs). (3) Any required COVID or medical testing that Botswana requires (currently none). (4) Trip insurance (highly recommend). (5) Gratuities.

## Getting To and From the Workshop

The workshop starts in Maun, Botswana and ends in Johannesburg, South Africa. **Important:** you need to arrive at the Maun airport on May 15th and stay overnight in order to make our early morning flight to Tuli (that lodging is at your expense; Wilderness Travel can help arrange that lodging). At the end of the workshop we'll drop you off at the Johannesburg airport in time for outgoing evening flights on 25th.

The most logical way to get to Maun from the United States (and most other countries) is to fly first to Johannesburg, South Africa. That means you'll also need a ticket for the short flight from Johannesburg to Maun.

From the US, two carriers now fly directly to Africa and are preferred: United Airlines flies directly from Newark to Johannesburg, and from Washington DC to Capetown. Delta Airlines flies from Atlanta to both Johannesburg and Capetown. South African Airways should have resumed their direct US to Johannesburg flights from Washington DC and JFK, as well.

Flights from both Johannesburg or Capetown to Maun can be booked on Airlink (a United codeshare partner), and from Johannesburg to Maun on Air Botswana. At present, Airlink is using a larger Embraer 170 jet with bigger overhead bins, so this is the preferred choice for photographers. Given Airlink's codeshare partnership, it is possible to book the entire Maun trip on United's site, though the [united.com](http://united.com) Web site is a bit inconsistent about providing this.

Our instructors generally recommend that you arrive a day earlier than the workshop in Maun (e.g. May 14th) and stay an extra night at a local lodge in Maun. This is because the long cross-Atlantic flights can get delayed or cancelled, particularly if you're having to connect with them from elsewhere in the US. Once we leave from Maun on our charter, it will be difficult to catch up with us.

A typical, "safe" flight itinerary would be:

- \* Leave US on May 13th for overnight flight to Africa
- \* Arrive and Overnight in Johannesburg on May 14th
- \* Fly Johannesburg to Maun May 15th, overnight in Maun

Going home is easier: we'll have you back in Johannesburg to link up to US flights on the evening of May 25th,

**Wilderness Travel can also provide some logical, guided extensions to this workshop if you want to maximize your time in Africa. These can link up to our start in Maun, or our finish in Johannesburg.**



## Important Notes

**Lodging.** This is subject to change depending on availability; equal or better lodging may be substituted as needed.

**Meals.** We've indicated which meals are provided each day with a **B**, **L**, and **D** (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner, respectively) at the end of each day's description. Some lunches will be sack or mobile lunches so that we can stay moving during the day. Breakfasts generally have both hot and cold options and are European style. Our in-camp lunches and dinners are full sit-down meals that often turn out to be mini-gourmet opportunities (yes, our mobile camp chef is that good).

Expect lots of meat and cheese, as that's the primary cuisine of the area, but **vegetarians and other food restrictions can be accommodated if we are made aware of them in advance.** Wines, beer, drinks, sodas, water, coffee, and tea are available and free in the tented camp, though alcohol and sodas are sometimes at your own expense at the lodges we use.

**Laundry Service.** Due to our constant travel and remote locations, formal laundry service isn't available on a travel day. You'll have at least one laundry day at each location at no charge, and usually two. A suggested packing list will be sent via email about six months prior to the trip.

**Electricity.** All our lodgings have full time electricity (220v, South African plus sometimes European two-prong).

**Cell and Internet Service:** Our lodges all have Wi-Fi access. We sometimes do get cell service when we're near a village, but you can't rely upon having anything near a constant connection.

We encourage you, however, to let this trip be a disconnection from the hectic phone/Internet world. Thom had a world famous concert pianist on one of his previous trips who marveled at how life was just so fresh and different and interesting without hearing music or having people constantly pinging you with messages.

**Weight.** We have some modest weight limitations on this trip imposed by our air carrier in South Africa (the Limpopo to Londolozi and Londolozi to Johannesburg flights). Your total baggage weight needs to stay within 40kg (typically 20kg luggage, 20kg camera gear). There are a few additional guidelines which we'll send you at the 120-day out mark.

## Trip Leaders

Thom Hogan has been teaching photograph workshops regularly since leaving *Backpacker* magazine in 2000, where he was the editor. Formally trained as a filmmaker, Thom taught film and television courses at Indiana University, and has developed coursework in many of the visual arts. While primarily known as a writer and instructor, Thom's imagery has appeared in a number of International magazines over the years. Thom is working on his third dozen of trips to Africa at this point.

Joining Thom on this trip as the second instructor will be Shane Hedges. Shane was born in Botswana and has been running mobile tented tours through Botswana for Wilderness Travel for over a decade, and is as knowledgeable as anyone you'll find in Africa about photographic opportunities. Moreover, Shane was trained in graphic design and more at University of Colorado and then has been taught safari photography by Thom, so you'll be in good hands with him as the second instructor.

Both Thom and Shane scouted our locations for this trip, and have selected the best possible itinerary for maximizing your safari experience.

As usual, we limit the number of students per vehicle on these trips so that everyone has room for their gear and isn't scrambling over each other to take photos.

## Wilderness Travel

Wilderness Travel is one of the world's leading adventure travel companies, winner of many travel awards, and is foreknown for its exceptionally high rate of repeat travelers.

Wilderness Travel will be happy to put you directly in touch with a past client that has traveled with them to Botswana. The photo instructors are also proud of the quality of their workshops and can put you in touch with someone that was on a previous Botswana workshop.

Once you have signed up for the trip (see next page on how to do that), Wilderness Travel will send you Departure Notes that include a complete packing list, relevant medical information, required travel documents, and a reading list.

Our trip leaders will also send out emails 120 days and again at 30 days before the trip with lots of additional useful information.



*Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law, which took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. Wilderness Travel has a trust account for funds received. California Seller of Travel #1007696-40.*

*While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel catalog.*

*Brochure Revised: 7/7/24 (th)*

## **How Do You Enroll?**

Reserving your spot on this trip is simple: **call Lisa Laferte at Wilderness Travel (800-368-2794 in the US, or 510-558-2488 for International callers)**. She'll help you reserve your spot by putting the reservation deposit on your credit card. Lisa will also send you a trip application and a Release of Liability form, both of which must be filled out and returned to Wilderness Travel for you to participate in this safari.

This is a first-come, first-served operation. **We expect this trip to completely fill, so we urge you not to delay in reserving your spot.**

Lisa can answer all your Africa and logistical questions, and help you with itinerary extensions throughout Africa if you're interested. Lisa manages African trips for Wilderness Travel and has visited the continent multiple times, thus she can speak to specific needs or requests, or just give you a better idea of the facilities, staff, and activities at any of the places we'll visit. Lisa can also advise you and book you on optional extensions to Victoria Falls or other nearby southern Africa locations.

If you have photographic concerns or questions, you can email them to the photo workshop leader at [thom\\_hogan@msn.com](mailto:thom_hogan@msn.com).

Wilderness Travel will be both handling the reservations and coordinating the services for this workshop/safari. You will be asked to fill out the standard Wilderness Travel trip application as well as sign a Release of Liability and Assumption of All Risks agreement. Please note that the payment and cancellation schedules for this trip differ slightly from Terms and Conditions listed in the Wilderness Travel annual catalog and Web site.

