



The Waves of Lumphathana

Nature's Light
Photography Tours and Workshops

A photographic journey and
masterclass with Emil von Maltitz

27th February - 2nd March 2020

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Summary

Just five and half hours from Durban lies one of the most incredible coastline's South Africa has to offer. From the kick-off point of Lumphuthana along South Africa's Wild Coast, it is possible for photographers to access some of the most dramatic coastal cliffs in the country. With an almost impossibly abrupt transition between ocean and land, the rock shelf off Lumphuthana and the coastal cliffs towards Mboyti allow waves to smash against the shoreline with astounding results. Add to this a pollution-less sky and you have a photographers delight.

This long weekend workshop is geared towards photographers with at least a basic understanding of their equipment, and who want to spend more time on growing their technique and photographic knowledge. To this end, several critique and feedback sessions have been built into the workshop where photographers are able to discuss the images they have shot during the workshop itself. Beginner photographers shouldn't feel intimidated by this though. With a maximum guest attendance of only 6 photographers with 2 instructors, there is ample opportunity for on-on-one instruction. Along with the feedback sessions, there are also several 'theory' sessions: informal discussion style sessions where we discuss theory



and technique before practicing in the field (examples include panoramic stitching, long-exposure technique, filter use, star-trails and night sky photography).

As mentioned, the workshop has a maximum guest attendance of 6 photographers. The workshop fee includes all meals, accommodation, drinks (within reason), park entrance fees, guide and workshop fees. Being a long weekend workshop as opposed to our expeditions, transport is not necessarily provided (but can

be organised). Guests who are traveling to Lumphathana can only reach the final destination in a four wheel drive vehicle.



Key Highlights:

Photograph:

- Stars spinning over the jumbled rocks of Lumphathana.
- Magwa Falls and the iridescent tea plantation.
- Wild Coast coastal scenery including 'beach bum cows'.
- Huge waves crashing against rocky cliffs under the dawn sky at Lumphathana.
- The incredible Waterfall Bluff and/or Cathedral Rock.

Enjoy:

- Being truly 'off-grid' where even the night sky has less visible 'light' pollution.
- Spending time with like minded people in one of South Africa's least visited but most rugged coastal areas.
- Freshly caught crayfish and line-fish brought to camp on a daily basis.

Learn about:

- Creative Composition: The basics and beyond, such as The Element Approach, Balancing Composition etc.
- Basics to advanced techniques in digital landscape photography. There are two instructors (on groups of 4-6 participants) meaning that virtually all levels of photography skill can be catered for.
- Workflow & digital asset management.
- How to create awe-inspiring astrophotography and star trail images.
- Working with extreme long-exposure images.
- How to create time lapses (optional)
- How to photograph waterfalls effectively
- How to photograph breaking waves and coastal scenes effectively
- Post-production using Lightroom, Photo Shop and Capture One

Emil regularly runs workshops and classes on Lightroom, Photoshop layers and masking and luminosity masking. These sessions will be included in the travel itinerary for those who want to spend more time on these aspects - so long as there is electricity.



Reasons to Join Us:

Imagine having only one afternoon and one morning at an iconic location such as Hole in the Wall. Having one chance only, and no time for scouting for the best spot and angle, you'll feel lost and stressed from the moment you arrive! And what if something goes wrong? Wrong camera setting, accidentally bumping your tripod during a long exposure, someone walks into your frame? If this is your once in a lifetime trip to the Wild Coast, and your photos don't come out the way you wanted, that would be devastating! Unlike many workshops, we spend multiple days in each location, allowing time for scouting, experimenting with different techniques and angles, asking for advice beforehand, so by the time the golden light has arrived you are there where you want to be to create the shot you envisaged! Even if something goes wrong, we can try again the following day! And if you have, after the comment and critique session with your instructors and fellow participants of your photos from day one, learned something new or gotten a new creative idea, you can try it out on day two at the same location.

Staying multiple nights at one destination will allow for a much more relaxed tour rather than packing suitcases and traveling every day, plus our shooting to traveling ratio is one of the best available on the market. You came to spend time shooting instead of spending time traveling in a car right? Where we do travel, we feel it is for good reason and to add value to your tour.

As we are not rushed to travel every day, we have plenty of time to include lots of tuition, comment & critique sessions.

No big buses, but 4x4 vehicles. This allows for true versatility and flexibility. This way we can split groups and have only a handful of fellow photographers around your photo shoot area, to avoid 'tripod-rage' (where you get so fed up with fellow photographers walking into your shot, using their flash or torch whilst you attempt astro-photography, or planting their tripod in front of yours, that you start to consider to use your tripod as a blunt weapon for mass destruction...)

Landscape only. Tuition and photo shoots on this tour focus on landscape photography only, which is the only way to hone that particular skill. There is no point in trying to learn and master different types of photography in one workshop, as the types (landscape, wildlife, macro, people portraiture) are so different and require different techniques. Note that of course we will stop and make some time for those types of shots if an excellent or unique opportunity arises.



With a maximum of 6 guests and 2 instructors we offer one of the best instructor-participant ratios available on the market, as others typically take 5 to 8 participants per instructor. Moreover, this allows teaching simultaneously at beginner, intermediate and advanced level, as participants can choose what they would like to learn about, from which tutor and at what level. This ensures the steepest possible learning curve for you, regardless of your level of experience!

The workshop is inclusive of three meals a day. It even includes drinks (whether alcoholic or not and within reason), and if you like to snack you may want to buy some snacks every now and again. Other than curios, you don't have to count on spending much more whilst being on the workshop.

In summary, less traveling (= more shooting and more tuition) + better instructor to participant ratio for a pretty much all inclusive package = the most value you can get from any Wild Coast photography workshop available!

About Us, Description of Tour Leaders:

Emil von Maltitz is an internationally recognized South African landscape photographer and member of the International Environmental Photographers Association. He has been involved in photography for the better part of the last two decades. After completing his postgraduate degree in Anthropology, he opted to pursue his dream and turn his passion for photography into his career. Along with freelance commercial and assignment photography, Emil spends time running a number of photographic workshops. Well-versed and knowledgeable in the Adobe suites, Emil will be able to help and guide in photo-editing and several advanced photographic techniques during the workshop. Of particular interest to Emil is the theory and practical application of advanced composition in landscape photography, which will be discussed at length during the workshop.



More about Emil can be found on the following websites. His commercial work can be seen on www.limephoto.co.za, and his fine art landscape work on www.emilvonmaltitz.com.

What You Will Learn:

You don't become a better photographer by buying more and more equipment, better cameras or bigger lenses. That you probably know. Better equipment doesn't mean better technique! There is no better way to improve your photography skills than to be taught by someone that has more experience than you. And there is certainly no more fun way than to do just that at some of the world's most iconic landscapes, together with a bunch of like-minded fellows! Moreover, technique and equipment can only get you so far, after that it is 'creativity' that will set you apart. Creativity is what allows someone to create captivating images, rather than an ordinary photo of a beautiful landscape. It is hard to learn to be creative yourself, and you don't learn to think out of the box from an online course. Creativity develops when someone pushes you out of your comfort zone, while giving you practical tips and hints as to what options you have from a compositional point of view. And this is exactly what we do with you in the field. We wish to inspire you so you go home with great images and better photographic knowledge!

Not only do we try to develop your creativity, (pre) visualisation skills and composition whilst in the field, we also spend time in 'classroom sessions' where we are able to view images and discuss the philosophy and technique behind the image. At the start of the workshop the tutors will sit with each participant to find out individual wishes and expectations, and to see at what level they are. In between the morning, afternoon and evening/night shoots there will be lectures on topics of the participants' choice. There will also be guided photo-editing sessions, and we have

frequent informal comment & critique presentations where we discuss each other's photos in a constructive and fun manner.

The big benefits of the Waves of Lumphathana Workshop is that we're staying at the very best locations possible for accessing the desired photogenic locations, regardless of their star rating or accommodation prices. This means that sometimes we have to stay in rustic chalets in the middle of the nature reserve, but on other days we stay in more upmarket bed and breakfasts when they are the closest (or only) accommodation that will give us access to the locations to photograph during the right times with the right light. We also organize permits to enable photographic shoots at the best possible time of the day.



Daily Itinerary:

Once again, this tour is not a traditional, relaxed, holiday. Although joining photo shoots and/or teaching sessions is of course optional and you may skip some of them if you want, be prepared for some early mornings and some late nights. A typical daily itinerary looks like:

Wake up around 5-5:30am for a do a sunrise shoot

Return for breakfast around 8:00am

Four options (or a combination of them) depending on the day:

- A few hours private time where you can relax, get a nap, download photos
- Lessons or guided editing time
- Comment & Critique sessions
- Traveling to a photographic destination if a traveling day.

Lunch around 13:00pm

Three options depending on the day:

- A few hours private time where you can relax, get a nap, download photos
- Lessons or guided editing time
- Comment & Critique sessions

Afternoons shoot from 15:30pm to about 18:00pm

Dinner around 18:30pm

Possible night shoot from 20:00pm onwards.

We cannot stress enough that this is not a typical lazy holiday. Some days are long, but the rewards of joining this workshop are phenomenal. Incredible locations, wonderful camaraderie, excellent photographic guidance and unique photography opportunities make for a sensational nine days along the Wild Coast that you will be talking about for years to come.





The Waves of Luphathana

The Waves of Lumphathana

Day 1:

As it is, we spend our first afternoon at Lumphuthana playing on the rock shelf and working with photographing the waves in the fading light. After dinner we have an early night as the following morning is another early start.

Day 2:

Our first proper day of the workshop is dedicated to getting to know the immediate area, and getting comfortable with shooting around the rocks. There are dozens of shoot opportunities right at our doorstep. It also gives an opportunity to correct any software issues or technique issues before getting into the business of serious photographic locations. All the days are really quite flexible, but this first shooting day is for ironing out any kinks in the photographic workflow.

Day 3:

An early 5:00am tea and coffee with rusks before we walk to the astounding Waterfall Bluff. This waterfall falls in a beautiful curve directly into the ocean. A small cove shelters this scene, allowing photographers amazing access to this beautiful landscape feature. We aim to reach Waterfall Bluff by sunrise so that photographers can take advantage of the soft predawn light. The walk itself is easy and takes approximately 40-50 minutes of slowish walking (it's roughly 4km to the Bluff from Lumphuthana).

After dawn, any photographers who would like to can continue to the dramatic and impressive Cathedral Rock. This takes approximately another hour to reach. Photographers not wanting to exert themselves too much can return to Lumphuthana.

After lunch we spend the afternoon in guided editing and a feedback session followed by rest and dinner. Once the sun has set we make our way onto the rock shelf again to photograph the night sky superimposing dramatically flash lit waves against the Milky Way.

Day 4:

For our last early morning rise we head out to explore Magwa Falls and Fraser Falls after a 5:00am start of the day with tea or coffee with rusks. Magwa Falls is an incredible, and often missed, waterfall that cascades 142m down into a narrow ravine. The unprotected edges make for nervousness, but viewing the Falls can be done safely (visiting Magwa Falls is one of the few spectacular waterfalls that are truly uncontrolled-no fences even- creating the sense that you are the first to view it).

After visiting Magwa Falls we stop by the impressive, but basically inaccessible Fraser Falls, before heading back to Lumphuthana for some editing and a rest. Once we have had some lunch we have a short feedback session before heading out to the grasslands above Lumphuthana. These rolling hills afford some beautiful opportunities to create abstract landscape compositions with solitary trees, or cattle grazing under an azure sky.

Once the sun has set we make our way back to camp for a restful



evening by the fireside.

Day 5:

Our last morning is spent once more photographing the waves on the rock shelf in front of Lumphuthana. The early morning light and clouds (hopefully) come together to create a fantastic purple backdrop for the waves to be highlighted against. On top of this, being near the crashing water is a fantastic way to end this wonderful workshop on the Wild Coast.

Once we have had our breakfast and portered our equipment across the Lumphuthana River we make our way back towards Durban and home.



Day	Date	Plan of Day	Accommodation
1	27 Feb 2020	Leave Durban (Durban airport) and travel down to the Wild Coast. If leaving early, arrival should be around lunchtime.	Luphathana Drifters Camp
2	28 Feb	Dawn shoot on the breakers by Luphathana, Theory session on long exposure photography and guided editing. Late afternoon shoot at Hole in the Wall.	Luphathana Drifters Camp
3	29 Feb	Early morning rise to walk to Waterfall Bluff (and potentially Cathedral Rock). Return for breakfast. Late afternoon drive out to Cathedral Rock.	Luphathana Drifters Camp
4	1 March	Drive out to Magwa Falls and photography near the tea estate for early morning light.	Luphathana Drifters Camp
5	2 March 2020	Final dawn shoot of waves followed by breakfast and departure.	Port St Johns

Note: As mentioned, the daily plan is flexible and will be tailor made around clients' needs and wishes. Estimated driving times are rough estimates taking into account stopping along the way for taking photos. Topics for teaching sessions will be determined during the tour after consultation with the participants, so you get to learn what you want to learn about.

Accommodation and Logistics:

All accommodation, food and transport to and from Durban Airport where the tour starts and ends is included in the fee. The tour will be conducted in two 4x4 vehicles each taking 3-4 people and their luggage. At destinations, having two vehicles allows us to go to different shooting locations, so that each participant has an opportunity to take unique shots. The table below describes the accommodation at each location:

Luphathana	Accommodation at Luphuthana is extremely limited (there are only a handful of privately owned fishermen cottages). Thankfully we have access to the very comfortable Drifter's Camp. Accommodation is shared in permanent tents. Electricity is provided by solar power and battery arrays while hot water is provided by gas geysers. Bedding is NOT provided at the Drifters camp so it is imperative that you bring a sheet, sleeping bag and pillow (Since it is winter it will be cold!).
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Price:

R12,900 per person. Minimum 3 participants, maximum 6 participants.

What is included	What is not included
All lodging - Single tent with en suite bathroom	Airfares to and from Durban International Airport
All meals and drinks for the duration of the workshop	Non-meal time snacks if purchased on route.
Local tips for guides and for restaurants	Possible extra excursions/ activities and/or additional days
Photography guidance by up to two professional photographers	Travel insurances (mandatory!)
All tuition including teaching material and hand-outs	Photographic gear rental (if required)
	Transport

What to Bring:

Upon booking, we will send you a detailed list of what to bring, but below we list the essentials in terms of photographic equipment.

Photography Equipment

- A digital SLR camera, Emil and Nick both shoot with Full-Frame cameras, but any interchangeable lens camera will work perfectly on the workshop including, crop-sensor DSLRs, the new breed of mirrorless cameras and Micro Four Thirds
- A good quality tripod, preferably one not made of plastic. We can help you choose a suitable one if you don't already have a tripod.
- A wide angle lens (Emil and Nick use wide and ultra-wide angle

cameras will also work perfectly well. We don't recommend using compact cameras because of their serious limitations or the 1" sensor cameras which don't have the same tolerances for landscape photography that M4/3s and larger sensor cameras have.



lens as a matter of preference).

- A telephoto zoom lens, such as a 70-200 or 70-300.
- A camera remote (cable release) or intervalometer.
- For anyone serious about getting into landscape photography, a filter set consisting out of graduated Neutral Density filters and a polarizer, is indispensable. For long exposures of the ocean we also highly recommend a full neutral density filter such as the Little and Big Stoppers from Lee. We strongly recommend investing in a set before arrival. Let us know if you need help choosing the right set.
- A laptop with editing software already loaded. Emil and Nick personally use Lightroom and Adobe Photoshop with Nik plugins.
- A backup hard-drive for backing up images (it would be terrible to travel to the Wild Coast only to lose all the images if a laptop hard-drive crashes).



Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Do I have to do anything?** Yes please! We do count on (some of) you to help with driving and some camp chores. Camp chores are very limited as we have organised catering pretty much everywhere. Your help with packing and unloading vehicles etc. every now and again will be much appreciated! In our experience, running the logistics of a workshop as a team effort is fun and keeps the spirits high!
- **Do I get a discount if I bring my own vehicle?** Those who prefer to drive with their own vehicle can potentially obtain a discount, provided that they are willing to make their vehicle available to take some of the other guests as passengers. Your vehicle must be a high clearance 4x4 vehicle, and have at least 4 seats available (including driver-you). Fuel will be provided from the starting point of the tour in Durban, to the last day in Durban again. Any other fuel (getting to Durban before the tour and from Durban after the tour) will be for your own account. Costs of towing, tyres, breakdowns, replacement vehicle rental etc. will be entirely for your own account.
- **Can I have a room to myself?** Sometimes. This tour and its price is based upon sharing accommodation with other participants of the same sex. At some locations there are simply no other rooms/chalets available, as we have booked out the entire bed and breakfast, so there you will have to share. At the other locations you could potentially have a private room, if available. The costs for the single supplement is to be determined depending on availability options. Obviously we do also cater for couples in which case partners share a room.
- **Can you cater for special dietary requirements?** For the most part, yes. Please do let us know of any dietary requirement you have and we can see what we can do. Moreover, where we eat in restaurants, menu choice can often be limited. You are welcome to suggest options during the tour, or join the shopping moments to ensure we can cater properly for your needs.
- **Is the Wild Coast safe?** The news has highlighted that there have been several incidents of theft along the Wild Coast in the past. However, we stay in relatively isolated places where tourists are for the most part welcomed. We have also opted for accommodation where there is on-site security. A basic awareness of yourself and your belongings goes a long way to improving your security.
- **Do the tour leaders take photos themselves?** Yes they do. However, the emphasis is on teaching and guiding you throughout the course. Our experience has taught us that most participants enjoy teaching sessions interspersed with 'try-out-alone' time, where they put the taught techniques into practice. Moreover, landscape photography is all about seeing the beauty in the land, which for each individual is different, and then to be creative with it. To have a teacher talking you through every step along the way in the field will hinder the development of your creativity, as you are not 'pushed' to try things for yourself. Hence, our teachers will be there when you need them in the field, give tips and directions, regularly checking on each individual participant to see if they need advise, but don't be surprised if you see them taking photos themselves in between helping other participants - Also, there are two dedicated instructors on the workshop and a maximum of six participants; you are



guaranteed to get assistance with your photography when you need it!

- **How fit do I have to be?** Relatively fit. Physical difficulty for this tour is rated as low to intermediate. There will be some climbing of hills and/or rocks, and walking over pebble beaches can prove to be strenuous. The most obvious physical activity is the walk to Waterfall Bluff. Obviously, it is up to you to decide when you want a rest, need some help with carrying your photography gear, or opt to miss a particular shoot altogether.
- **Should I be concerned about the water or any other health issues?** The water is potable almost everywhere in South Africa and the Wild Coast is no exception. Where it isn't we will provide bottled water for consumption. In terms of health concerns, if you are concerned please consult with your GP or travel doctor. It is still advisable to bring your own personal medications. Antihistamine, pain-killers, insect repellent, sun-tan lotion (NB!), antiseptic cream and plasters are always a good idea. There are ticks in the grass wherever we go due to the large amount of cattle, so insect repellent and long trousers are recommended.
- **Is there Internet Access?** There is no Wifi on the trip, Lumphathana is a different matter when it comes to cellphone reception, but there is a spot one can stand and phone if the weather isn't inclement. Also during the walk to Waterfall Bluff we walk through an area with 3G and even LTE signal.

Contact and Bookings:

If you would like to join us on the Waves of Lumphathana Tour, you can make a booking by contacting Nature's Light at:

email: info@nareslight.co.za

phone: +27(0)845849959

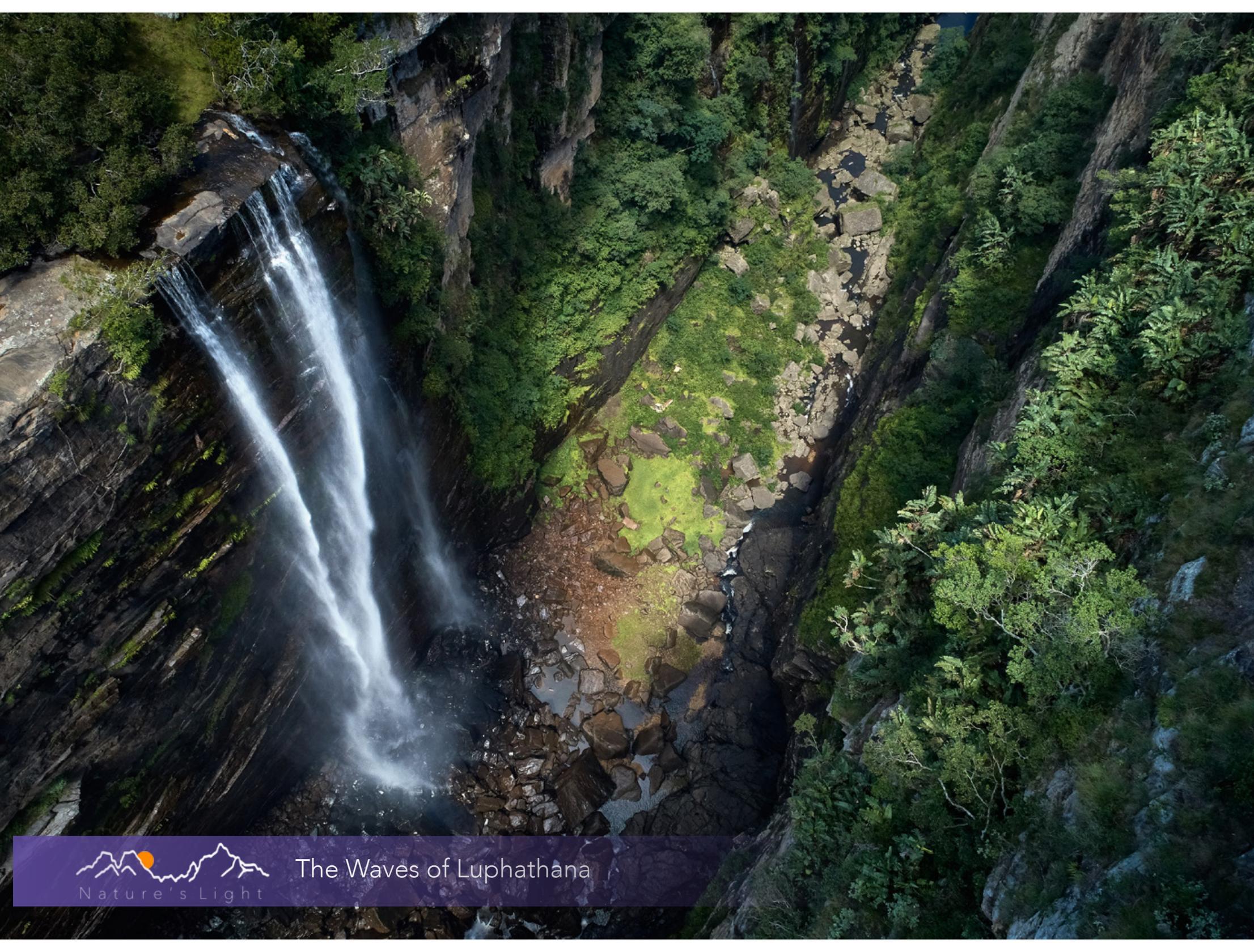
Fax: +27(0)865631530

Terms and Conditions are available on:

www.natureslight.co.za/termsandconditions



The Waves of Lumphathana



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