



Romancing The Trees - Tuli Wilderness Photography Workshop

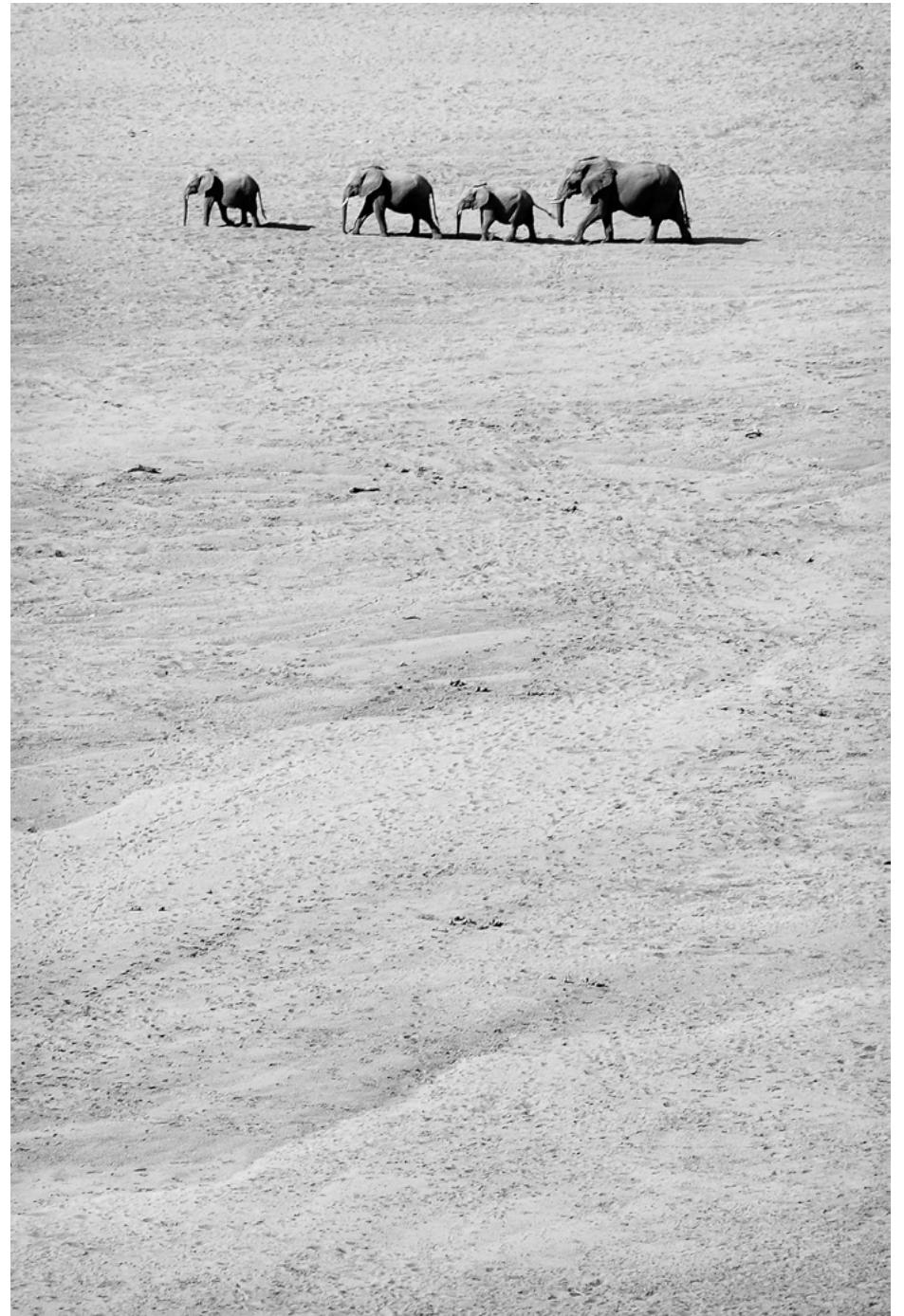
Nature's Light
Photography Tours and Workshops

A photographic journey and
masterclass with Emil von Maltitz
and Nick van de Wiel

21st - 27th August 2016

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Summary

The Tuli Block is a magical piece of land nestled on the border of Botswana, hugging the Limpopo River and acting as a last tree lined barrier before the red sands of the Kalahari. It is studded with rocky outcrops and matted by slender mopani wood forests. Over this, tall and stately baobab trees stand like giant guardians and elephants roam in enormous herds. To add to the magical quality, at night the sky is lit like an enormous glittering cave full of jewels where the stars twinkle in abundance.

The Tuli Wilderness photography workshop takes all of this in and gives photographers something different to the countless other wildlife photography workshops that can be found in Southern Africa. Unlike other photography workshops in the Tuli Block, we do not concentrate on wildlife photography. Rather, we place

an emphasis on creative 'wilderness photography'. To us this is the kind of photography that marries the genres of wildlife and landscape into a concentrated nature photography.

To give the best possible experience of the Tuli Block we have partnered with Tuli Wilderness Safaris and their extremely talented, knowledgeable and skilled staff. We have crafted a unique itinerary geared specifically to photographers that includes bush camps where we can literally sleep next to our camera locations as we photograph the night sky.

Also unique as a photography workshop is the fact that it is based on a walking trail safari, allowing unrivalled access to the landscape. Not only will photographers benefit from the locations and workshop sessions, they will also be enthralled by the total immersion into the Tuli landscape. The pace is sedate and only



a moderate level of fitness is required to enjoy the itinerary. For photographers who are tired, there is also the option to skip the walks and meet at the primary shoot locations instead, although we firmly recommend the walks as it is by far the best way to experience the Tuli wilderness.

This wilderness experience is crafted to not only create an amazing photographic experience, but also one where photographers are encouraged to push their creative and technical abilities. To this end, the workshop is geared towards photographers with at least a basic understanding of their equipment, and who want to spend more time on improving their technique and photographic knowledge. Several critique and feedback sessions have been built into the workshop where photographers are able to discuss the images that they have taken 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 (1 instructor and a field guide for groups of 3), there is ample opportunity for one-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).

The workshop has a maximum guest attendance of only 6 photographers. The fee includes all meals, accommodation, drinks (within reason), park entrance fees, guides, workshop fees AND transport. We use a comfortable mini-bus from Johannesburg and meet the hosts of the workshop on the Botswana border to be transferred to Tuli Wilderness Safaris; our home for the duration of the workshop.



Key Highlights: **Photograph:**

- The night sky in one of the cleanest light-polution free areas close to South Africa
- Iconic Shepherd's trees that stand like solitary wise men in the landscape.
- Roaming herds of elephant that criss-cross the Tuli landscape.
- The magnificent rock outcrops of Eagles Rock, the Great Tuli Wall and Solomon's Wall.
- Majestic baobabs that command the view over the Tuli landscape.

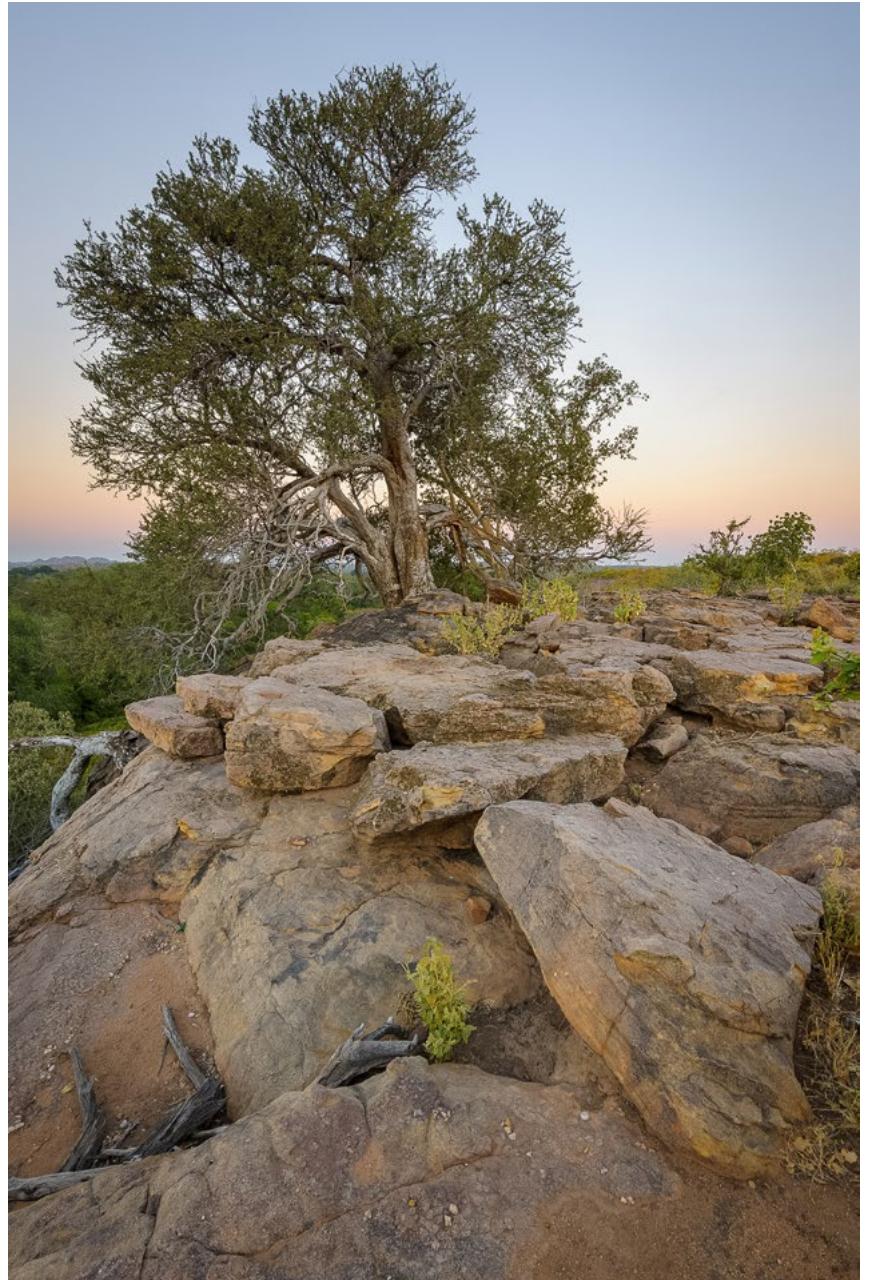
Enjoy:

- A night luxury camping on a rocky Eagle's Rock outlook over the Motloutse River.
- Relaxing under the panoply of stars while listening to the regaling tales of our host Stuart Quinn (probably worth the trip on its own).
- Probably the world's best instructor to participant ratio, maximizing your learning

- Having highly experienced tutors watching over your shoulders helping you on the spot as you craft your image.
- Spending time with like minded people in the iconic Botswana

- **Learn about:**

- Creative Composition: The basics and beyond, such as The Element Approach, Balancing Composition etc.
- Basic to advanced techniques in digital landscape photography. There are two instructors (on groups of 4-6 participants) meaning that virtually all levels of photographer can be catered for.
- Workflow & digital asset management.
- How to create awe-inspiring astrophotography and star trail images.
- How to create panoramic images.
- How to create time lapses (optional)
- Advanced composition for landscape imagery
- Post-production using Lightroom and Photo Shop



Reasons to Join Us

Nature's Light prides itself on 'deep-instruction'. This is a term we use to describe how we teach photographers to understand the mechanics of the camera and light as well as the subtle art of photographic composition. The goal is not just to take you to a great location and produce a great image. Our goal is that you understand how to create that image so that you can do it again, and again, and again.

Far too many photography workshops and instructors bark out settings and instruction on how to replicate an image they, the instructor, are creating. We differ in that we strive to get the photographers to create their own works by assisting with the pre-visualization and creation of those images. We firmly believe that this approach improves the skill and workflow of the photographers that join us.

With a maximum of 6 guests and 2 instructors (1 instructor for groups of up to 3 guests) 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!

For the Tuli Wilderness Photography workshop we have also chosen to team with the astoundingly knowledgeable owners of Tuli Wilderness Safaris. Their approach to introducing the Tuli Wilderness to their guests is what prompted us to pair with them in the first place. Their contribution to the workshop will leave you with a truly memorable experience. Enough so, that even without the photographic aspect, this would be an amazing tour to take part in.



About us, description of tour leaders

Emil von Maltitz is a 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-verses 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.

Nick van de Wiel Nick is a specialist nature and photographic guide based in St. Lucia, South Africa. Trained as a biologist as well as safari guide, Nick revels being in the bush, and if possible, with a camera in hand! Although he started off as a Wildlife Photographer, as his photography matured he moved more and more towards Landscape Photography. Although technically very able, both 'in camera' as well as with post processing, Nick is very focussed on the creative as well as meditative aspect of photography. Especially with landscape work, it is all about 'seeing & recognising beauty' and the only way one will 'find it', is by being in the present moment. Then 'crafting the image', trying to capture the emotion of the moment in the available light, in order to create a most beautiful still photograph that speaks for itself, and that has the eyes of viewers linger on for a while. As a teacher, he is well known for his inventive teaching methods and ways of explaining difficult or abstract concepts in layman's terms, so that they are easier to understand.



More about Nick on www.nickvandewiel.com and www.tailormadesafaris.co.za.

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 Tuli Wilderness Photography 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 tents in the middle of the bush (which are actually amazingly luxurious thanks the efforts of Tuli Wilderness Safaris), but on other days we stay in more upmarket luxury tented camps 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
- Walking in the bush with our guide Stuart Quinn.
- Game Drive session

Lunch around 13:00

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
- Walking to a location for a photoshoot or simply experiencing the bush.

Afternoons shoot from 15:30 to about 18:00

Dinner around 18:30

Possible night shoot from 20:00 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 5 nights in the Tuli Wilderness.



The Tuli Wilderness Photography Workshop

Day 1

We meet at Oliver Tambo (Johannesburg International) airport and embark on the transport to the Botswana border. Departure time is around 10:00am. Travel time is around 5 hours. We meet our hosts from Tuli Wilderness Safaris at the Pont Drif border crossing, where they transport us to Serolo luxury tented camp near the edge of the Limpopo River. We spend a relaxed evening under the stars getting to know each other and discussing the days ahead as well as getting a feel for the photography sessions that will be planned.

Day 2

Our first morning is a relaxed start with an early morning game drive to orientate ourselves in the reserve. We return for breakfast and several class-room based teaching sessions at Serolo camp. After lunch, we head out for an afternoon photo-shoot near Serolo Camp close to the Limpopo river. The first day is relaxed so that photographers can get a feel for the days ahead and get their minds into the creative aspect of composition

Day 3

After a dawn shoot near the Limpopo River we return to Serolo Camp for an editing session followed by the first critique session. These are important sessions where photographers get a chance to review images and discuss how to improve their composition and technical skills.



After lunch and a rest we set out on the first of the bush walks with our guide from Tuli Wilderness Safaris. The idea is experience the Tuli on foot, slowly, so that we have the opportunity to create images of the distinct landscape and its incredible trees.

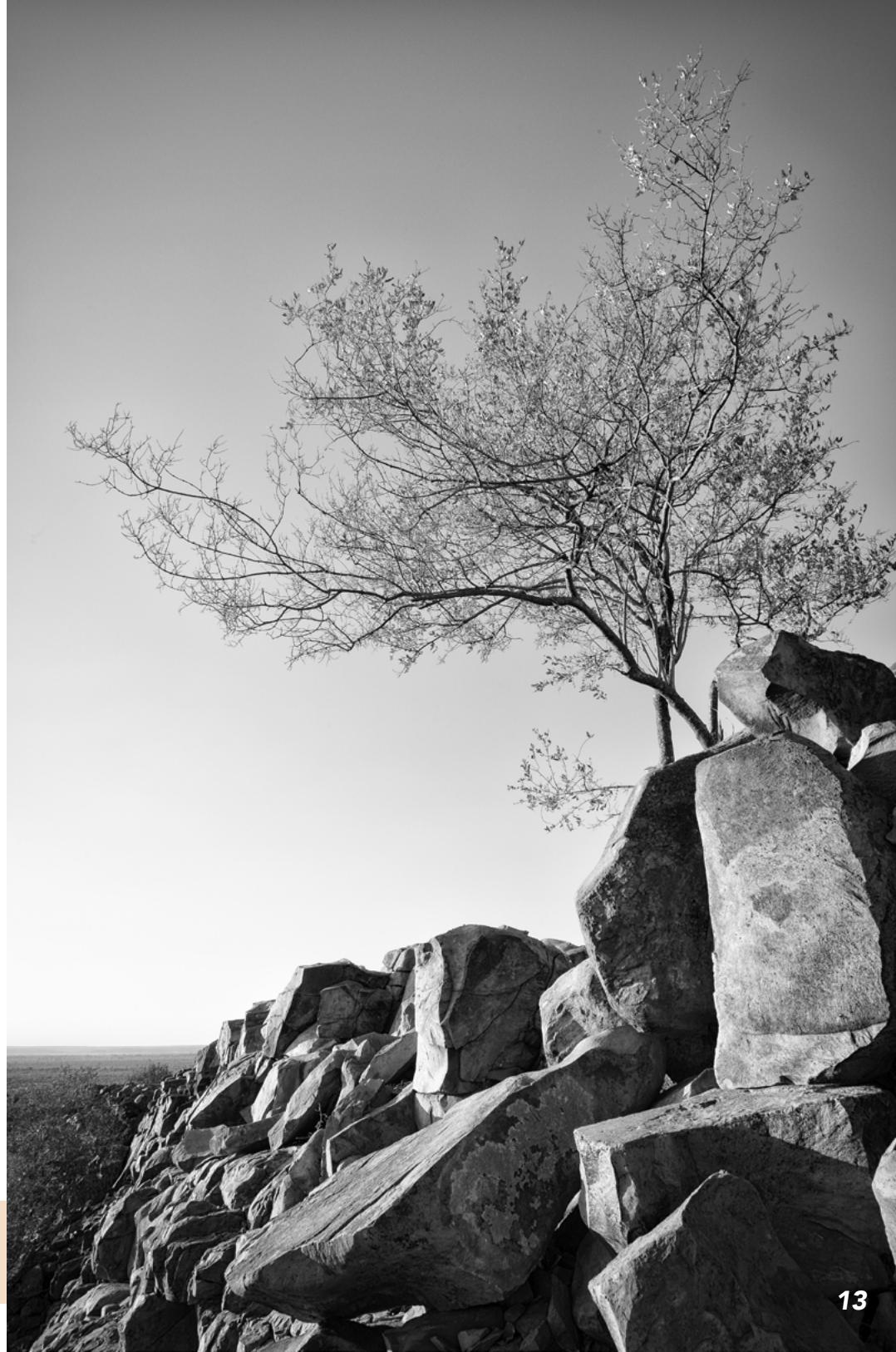
We end our walk close to a sunset shoot location in the bush that is also our rest for the night. One of the highlights of this workshop is the unique opportunity to 'camp' in luxury in the middle of the wilderness. From these 'wilderness bases' we are then able to choose interesting foregrounds for some spectacular night photography opportunities.

Day 4

Due to the late evening the day before and the expected late evening ahead, we start after sun up with a leisurely breakfast. We then continue on with a morning bush walk to the Mashatu River where we hope to photograph environmental landscape images with the famous Tuli Elephants (with luck).

After the bush walk a well-deserved rest is in order. Depending on weather and other situational factors, we will either spend the afternoon at Serolo or at another bush location.

In the late afternoon we head to Eagles Roack for its astounding outlook over the Tuli Block, and to enjoy sundowners and a evening photo-shoot. Eagle's Rock is also the location of our night's bush camp so that we are perfectly situated to photograph the night sky from this impressive aerial view.



Day 5

The day starts early with a dawn shoot from the outlook on Eagle's Rock. After breakfast we make our way back to Serolo for an editing and critique session.

After lunch we head out on an afternoon bushwalk (or drive for those who are tired of walking) to an area where we are able to spend the golden hours and twilight photographing the iconic baobabs of the Tuli Block.

Our night is spent close to the trees in order to photograph them against the panoply of the starry night sky.

Day 6

Our last dawn shoot again finds us with the baobabs of the night before. After breakfast we return to Serolo for editing and critique.

Once we have had a restful lunch and rest period, we drive out to

the Great Tuli Wall for our last photoshoot. This impressive stack of boulders runs across the Tuli Landscape, improbably formed as if giants had dry stone-walled the Tuli as a kraal for elephants.

With the closing of the light we head back to Serolo for a lovely last dinner and to be regaled by guides.

Day 7

The last day is essentially a travel day. No doubt tired by this stage, our only requirement is to leave by a reasonable hour in order to return to Oliver Tambo International airport - a roughly 6-7 hour drive including stopover for lunch along route.



Day	Date	Plan of Day	Accommodation
1	21 August 2016	Meet at Oliver Tambo (Johannesburg International Airport) and travel as a group to the South Africa/Botswana Border. Transfer to Serolo Tented Camp at Tuli Wilderness Safaris	Serolo
2	22 August 2016	Morning game drive followed by orientation at Serolo Guest Camp. Lessons on astro-photography. Evening photoshoot near Serolo.	Serolo
3	23 August 2016	Discussion and lecture over composition at lunch at Serolo. Afternoon Bush walk to Wilderness Camp near forested area with Shepherd trees close by.	Wilderness
4	24 August 2016	Bush walk to Mashatu River for environmental landscape imagery. Afternoon sedate walk to Eagles Rock for twilight shoot and sundowners. After dinner astro photograph overlooking the Mashatu River. Wilderness Camp on Eagles Rock.	Eagle's Rock
5	25 August 2016	Sunrise from Eagle's Rock. Return to Serolo for Photo editing and critique session. Depart for afternoon walk ending at sunrise near baobabs for photoshoot and dinner. Wilderness camp near baobabs for star-trails.	Wilderness
6	26 August 2016	Sunrise shoot near the baobab trees. Return to Serolo for editing and critique. After lunch head to Great Wall of Tuli (or similar location) for photoshoot and sundowners. Return to Serolo for dinner and rest.	Serolo
7	27 August 2016	After a leisurely breakfast we depart for Oliver Tambo Airport. Estimated Time of arrival at Oliver Tambo 16:00. Bush walk to Mashatu River for environmental landscape imagery.	

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 Johannesburg International Airport where the tour starts and ends is included in the fee. The transfer will be conducted in a comfortable minivan. At the Tuli Block we will be met by the staff from Tuli Wilderness Safaris and use their vehicles for the duration of the workshop. The table below describes the accommodation at each location:

Serolo Camp	Serolo Camp is the principle luxury tented camp in the Tuli Wilderness Safaris reserve. Tents have electricity and en-suite bathrooms. The lodge has a self-catering kitchen, although we will be fully catered for. There is a large and comfortable lounge which will be used for teaching and small waterhole nearby for evening game viewing while we sip on sundowners.
Wilderness Nights	One if the highlights of this particular workshop are the wilderness nights. Tuli Wilderness Safaris are renowned for their excellent 'luxury' wilderness camps. They allow us unprecedented access to photographic locations such as Eagles Rock while being waited upon as if at a luxury lodge. This in itself is a reason to attend the Romancing The Trees workshop. It is THE most stylish and pleasant way to camp!

Price

R26,400 per person (approximately US\$1715 as of 1st March 2016). Minimum 3 participants, maximum 6 participants. (If under 4 participants, only one photographic leader will conduct the tour) Single Supplement: R3.900, subject to availability, book before 1st of June 2016 and receive 5% discount!

Why so expensive?

Admittedly, R26,400 (which for 8 nights comes to R3300 per night), is for many a lot of money. However, it is not expensive if you look at other similar photography workshops. The Tuli Block as a destination varies dramatically in price. Our accommodation on the workshop is a mix luxury tented accommodation and bush tenting (in a style that is as comfortable as possible). Add the vehicles, fuel, food and the salaries and transport for staff as well as their food and accommodation during the tour, and it is easy to see why the basic costs of running the workshop are in fact quite high.

Why so affordable?

We indeed feel the tour is very competitively priced. Just Google "Tuli photographic workshop" and see what prices you get, and what you get for those prices. Cheaper options are few, and they invariably use cheap accommodation that may not be the best location for your photo shoot, or exclude transport for example. We are confident in our best value for money approach, where we don't cut on quality, offer a pretty much all-inclusive tour at a fair price. Given that the tour leaders are South Africans and that

South African salaries and taxes are considerably lower than their European counterparts, we are able to pass this saving on as a rather more competitive price.

What is included	What is not included
All lodging (based upon sharing)	Airfares to and from Johannesburg International Airport (Oliver Tambo Airport)
Pickup and drop off from O.R. Tambo International Airport Johannesburg	Single room supplement (R3.900,-)
All meals and drinks for the duration of the workshop (O.R. Tambo International Airport Johannesburg and back)	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 two professional photographers and an assistant	Travel insurances (mandatory!)
All tuition including teaching material and hand-outs	Photographic gear rental (if required)
All road transport in comfortable 4x4 vehicles or mini-vans	
All entrance fees and photography permits	



Romancing The Trees

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 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.
- 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 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 Botswana only to lose all the images if a laptop hard-drive crashes).



Nature's Light

Romancing The Trees

Frequently asked questions

- **Do I have to do anything?** On this particular workshop, not much at all apart from enjoy yourself, learn a lot and enjoy the African scenery and the incredible location.
- **Do I get a discount if I bring my own vehicle?** The workshop is held completely within the territory administered and shared by Tuli Wilderness Safaris. As a matter of expedience, we offer transfer from Oliver Tambo airport in Johannesburg, which we have to use. So sadly there is no discount if you would like to use your own transport to get to Serolo Camp in the Tuli Block.
- **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. Serolo and the wilderness experience means that all food is catered on site. This means we need a little forewarning if you do have dietary requirements so that Serolo Camp can adequately cater for your needs.
- **Is the Tuli Block safe?** In a word, yes. The Tuli Block is an isolated area filled with nature reserves and parks. There is very little if any theft of the human sort (we cannot talk of scavenging baboons though).
- **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. Tuli Wilderness Safaris is known for its excellent walking safaris and we try to capitalise on this. Trails are easy to walk and not particularly strenuous. There is also the option to forgo the walking aspect entirely, but this may mean missing some excellent photography opportunities.
- **Should I be concerned about the water or any other health issues?** The water provided at Serolo is potable. 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.

- **Do I need anti-malarial medication?** Technically the Tuli Block is within Southern Africa's malarial belt. However, incidents of malaria are rare. Still if you are concerned, an anti-malarial medication can be easily obtained from your GP or travel doctor
- **Is there Internet Access?** There is no Wifi on the trip apart from at the Johannesburg International Airport. While at Tuli Wilderness Safaris it is possible to pick up signal from South Africa in a few isolated spots, but overall signal is poor for internet and telecommunications. Use the opportunity to take a break :)

Contact and Bookings

If you would like to join us for Romancing The Trees, you can make a booking by contacting Nature's Light at:

email: info@natureslight.co.za

phone: +27(0)845849959

Fax: +27(0)865631530

Terms and Conditions are available on:

<http://www.natureslight.co.za/termsandconditions>





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