



SERENGETI MIGRATION & WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY SAFARI

~ Led by ~

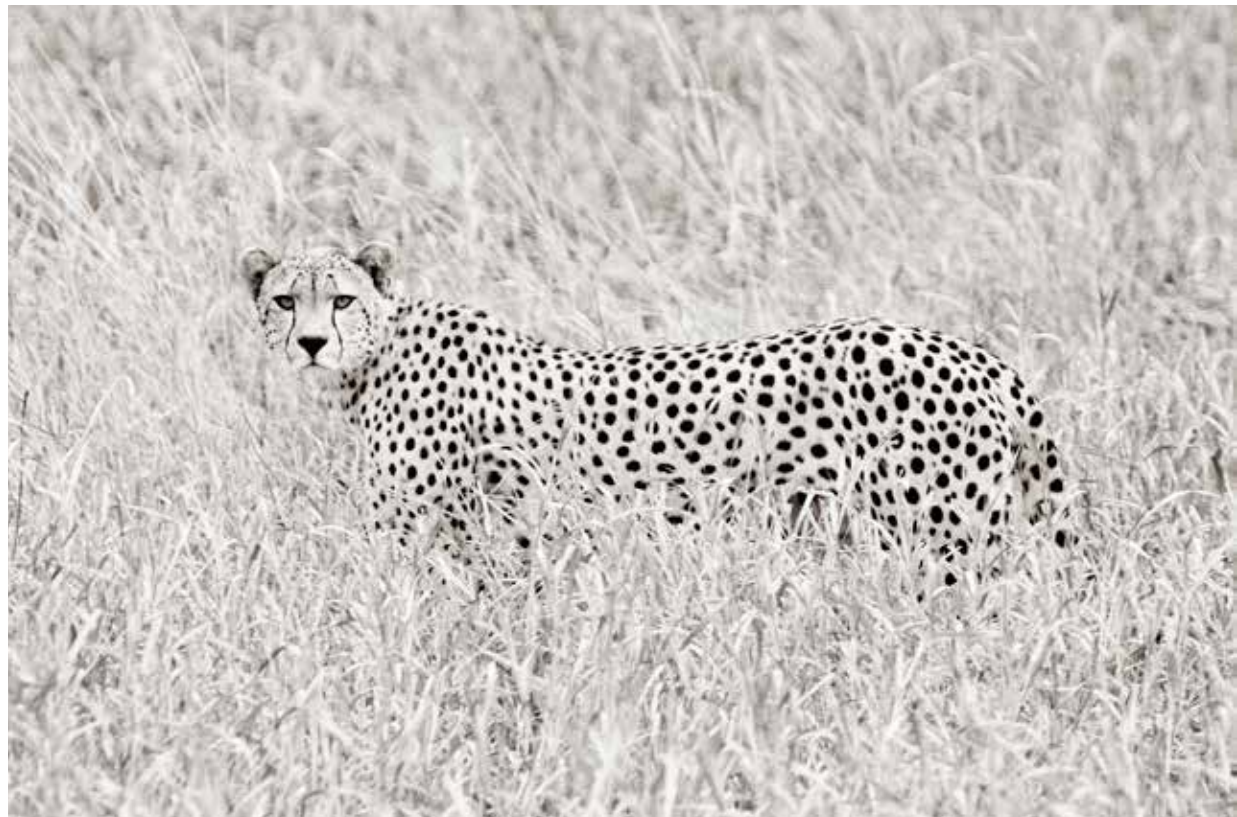
PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER PAUL SWEN

> “If you’ve ever wanted to jump into National Geographic Magazine, this is it. You will trek into remote areas that few foreigners have been to. And if you’re lucky (we were) you’ll hear lions roaring while you sip your morning coffee...”

M . P R O C K N A L

This is a private safari custom-built for wildlife enthusiasts and for anyone with an interest in photography. This special tour is led by Paul Swen, a Thornton Safaris team-member and award-winning, professional photographer, filmmaker, and active conservationist. Paul brings his 25 years of wildlife experience in Africa to share some of the most photogenic regions of the continent.

Guests will be taken on an amazing journey that can only come from some of the best wildlife guides in Tanzania. The exclusive itinerary is ideally timed to see the great herds of the wildebeest migration on the legendary short grass plains of the Serengeti. Guests will stay in a mix of exquisite and comfortable, tented camps – all ideally located and in the spirit of the traditional safari. Our fully outfitted land cruisers we will put you and your lens in front of the iconic African wild- life such as the big cats, elephant, giraffe, buffalo, and dozens more species, large and small. The scenery is simply breath-taking and you will experience the finest wildlife viewing that is pristine as it is beautiful.



> Wildlife

Few places in the world can boast such wonderful density and diversity of magnificent wildlife. On this trip, you have excellent chances to see lion, cheetah, and leopard, with the Serengeti being home to some of the largest populations of predators in the world. And there are literally dozens of herbivores to be observed and photographed, such as zebra, gazelles, warthogs, and the numerous antelope species, seemingly around every turn. We'll also visit Tarangire National Park, that boasts some of the greatest populations of the mighty elephant and impressive cape buffalo. This beautiful park is the homeland of great prides of lion, troops of baboons, and amazing bird species. Plus, the landscape adorned with giant baobab trees, red termite mounds, and meandering rivers is so brilliantly picturesque in the golden African light.

Fully outfitted safari vehicles

We explore the bush in customized Toyota Land Cruisers, that are specially modified with open roof hatches, providing maximum mobility in order to sit or stand, so every guest can capture wonderful sightings or images. Each vehicle has VHF radio, electrical outlets for charging cameras, phones, computers, and other equipment and includes a fridge full of cold beer, sodas and other refreshments.

Classic camps

Although we will be in wonderfully secluded locations, our tented camps are delightfully comfortable with classic safari style. Each camp is luxurious in many ways with great food, excellent service and cool drinks. Tents have comfy beds, hand-crafted furniture and en-suite bathrooms with sit-down toilets, sinks, and hot showers. Each camp is strategically chosen for wildlife sightings, splendid landscapes, and the chance to set-off at dawn each morning to search for wildlife.



Serious professional guides

All of our safaris are guided by some of the best in the business. We pride ourselves on delivering expertise and high standards that can only come with vast experience. Our guides have extensive training and the knowledge of how to find the wildlife you are looking for. We're excited to share details about the flora and fauna that make every day richer. Plus, our team is famous for having something that cannot be taught in books – a deep passion for exploration and pristine wilderness.

For photographers or regular travelers alike

This trip suits guests who want to experience the beauty of Tanzania through the eyes of an expert. Every day will be packed with dazzling scenery and nature at its best. If you are an amateur or advanced photographer, this trip is equally ideal. January brings magnificent skies and is a prime month for wildlife concentrations. For those who want expert photographic insight, Paul is happy to offer real tips of the trade so you can come home with memories to cherish forever. For guests that are interested, your best photos will be featured and credited on the Thornton Safaris website.

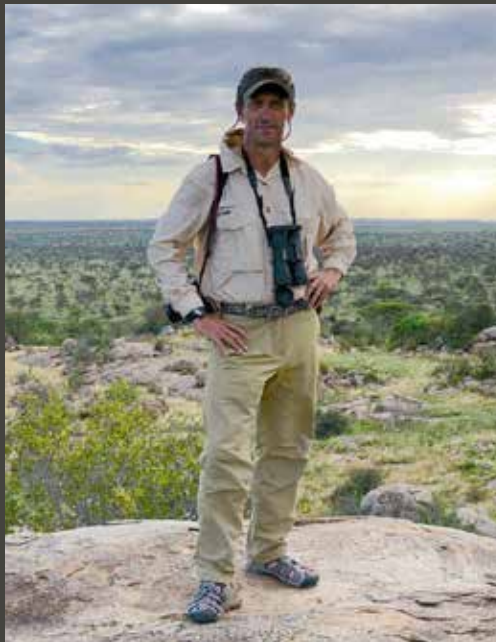


> “There’s so much to be said for an authentic, meaningful experience- One that allows you to interact with the local culture and be immersed in the wilderness, as it exists naturally. For me, that was by far the most interesting part of the trip.”

S. WALKER

> “In all my safaris to Africa I have never had as much fun and excitement as I had with Paul Swen and Mark Thornton Safaris. Paul customizes every safari to the needs and expectations of his clients. He is a master photographer so you know he will capture the most incredible images for you to share with friends. I highly recommend going on an African Safari with Paul, it will change your life.”

R. BARONGII



Seasoned Pro: Paul Swen

For 25 years, Swen and Mark Thornton Safaris have partnered to explore and share the wonders of Africa. Paul is renowned for creating breathtaking images of wildlife, landscapes, and people. His award-winning imagery has led him on expeditions around the globe from the rainforests of Borneo and Gabon to countless reserves in Tanzania, Kenya and beyond. His dedication to exploration is only matched by a passion for adventure and conservation. When not meandering the wilderness, he regularly produces imagery for top brands featured in countless, prestigious newspapers, magazines, and art galleries around the world. Paul loves to share “special spots” along with tips on gear, composition, light, and the whole range of technical tricks of the trade. When prodded, he can be convinced to share entertaining stories around the nightly fire.

ITINERARY OUTLINE

A leopard is perched on a large, dark, gnarled tree branch that extends diagonally across the frame. The leopard is facing right, looking out over a vast, golden-brown savanna landscape. In the background, there are rolling hills under a clear, light blue sky. The overall scene is peaceful and captures a moment of a wild animal in its natural habitat.

January 12:

Arrive Tanzania, transfer to quiet mountain lodge
> Overnight at Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge

January 13:

Arusha National Park
Briefing, game driving, photography & optional walking safari
> Overnight at Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge

January 14 & 15:

Tarangire National Park
Game driving & photography
> Overnight at Kichuguu Nyikani Camp

January 16, 17 & 18:

Southern Serengeti Wildebeest Migration Areas
Game driving & photography
> Overnight at Esirai Camp

January 19 & 20:

Eastern Serengeti National Park
Game driving, photography & optional walking safari
> Overnight at Olmara Camp

January 21:

Fly to Arusha, lunch, and transfer to Kilimanjaro Airport for departure

DETAILED ITINERARY

January 12: Arrive Tanzania

Arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport in northern Tanzania. Guests are met on arrival by your trip leader, Paul Swen, and accompanying guides, and then transferred to a small, quiet lodge for a light dinner and the night. This lovely, historic lodge sits tranquilly on the slopes of Mt Meru and a perfect spot to begin your African trip.

> Overnight at Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge



January 13: Arusha National Park

Briefing, game driving & optional walking

This morning over breakfast, as Mt Kilimanjaro breaks through the clouds, we have a briefing about the trip and brief gear-check. Then we set-off head to Arusha National Park, located about 30 minutes away. We explore the montane forest and glades that are home to four species of monkey: Vervet, Sykes, Olive Baboon and the beautiful Black and White Colobus monkey, as well as giraffe, buffalo, zebra, waterbuck and flamingoes at the lakes.

We game-drive with an option for gentle walking in the shadow of 15,000 foot Mt. Meru. We then enjoy a picnic lunch and some further exploring before returning to the lodge for cocktails, photo reviews and feedback, and a tasty fresh dinner.

> Overnight at Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge

January 14, 15: Tarangire National Park

Today we set off west to the magnificent Tarangire National Park, the land of mighty baobabs and elephants. We slowly game drive along the Tarangire River and the Silale Swamps, arriving in camp in the late afternoon.

Tarangire is renowned for enormous elephant and buffalo herds, a remarkable diversity of birds, big cats, warthogs, zebra, giraffe, and many other species. We spend the next two days enjoying exquisite game drives with superb photographic opportunities. The landscape is vastly different to Serengeti and offers the finest chances to have exciting, close-up elephant sightings.

> Overnight at Kichuguu Nyikani Camp





January 16, 17, 18: Southern Serengeti Wildebeest Migration Areas

We depart camp early to travel across Maasailand and up the Great Rift Valley escarpment, stopping for views of Lake Manyara. We continue along the rim of Ngorongoro Crater World Heritage Site and to the famous Serengeti. Note that our safari is customized to avoid touristed areas, while taking our guests to pristine wilderness that offer a more intimate and natural safari experience. By early afternoon, we descend into the short grass plains of the Serengeti.

January is the perfect time to visit this quintessential landscape with the wide-open vistas, where hundreds of thousands of wildebeest gather during their annual migration. The open plains are also home to a variety of carnivores such as lion, cheetah, bat-eared fox, jackals, hyena, serval cat and the elusive African wild cat. Of course, among the throngs of wildebeest are the thousands of other ungulates such as gazelles, topi, hartebeest, eland and zebra.

> Overnight at Esirai Camp

January 19, 20: Eastern Serengeti National Park

For the final two nights we continue to the eastern parts of the Serengeti, with excellent concentrations of wildlife including elephant, cape buffalo and large lion prides. We can also explore the eastern plains that are dotted with rocky outcrops called “kopjes”. The eye-catching landscapes are stunning with statuesque rocks rising from the grassy plains. The wide expanses are home to the endangered cheetah. And if we are lucky, we may catch them on the hunt. The kopjes also provide habitat for a host of other species and serve as vantage points and dens for lion.

> Overnight at Olmara Camp



To get an up-close encounter with the awesome Mountain gorillas or relax in some of the most beautiful spots of East Africa, just drop us a note at info@swenimagery.com

January 21: Fly to Arusha, lunch, and transfer to Kilimanjaro Airport for departure

Today you have a leisurely morning and game drive to the airstrip for the flight to Arusha for a final farewell lunch and some time by the pool. In the late afternoon, we transfer you to Kilimanjaro Airport for your departing flight. We can arrange dayrooms for you as well if you like.

Extend your trip!

1. Mountain Gorillas of Rwanda
2. The Luxury Retreats of Singita or Mwiba
3. Zanzibar & the Indian Ocean





The Serengeti Migration

One of the natural wonders of the world, the migration of almost 1.5 million wildebeest and thousands of zebra, is an onslaught of the senses. Driven by access to grazing, the wildebeest move from the northern woodlands and long grass plains in the dry season to the legendary short grass plains for the rainy period, the herds move to take advantage of the nutritious grasses for their young calves. It is the largest large mammal migration on earth, drawing exceptional numbers of predators. Along with the herds, other animals take advantage of water and grazing conditions, such as topi, zebra, gazelles, eland antelope and dozens of other species. You will be based in the best locations throughout your safari to witness the natural phenomenon first hand.

Mornings

We rise early to enjoy a cup of fresh Tanzanian coffee or tea before setting off as the sun the golden sun begins to rise. It's the magical time of day to catch the morning light and perhaps spy a predator out on the prowl or feasting on last night's catch. We spend the best time of the morning in the field, spotting and photographing wildlife with a break in the late morning for a bush picnic breakfast and a coffee refill. We head back to camp at midday when the mercury rises for a cold drink and delicious lunch.



Midday

The middle of the day tends to be a quiet time in the wilderness. The animals tend to avoid action during the heat. So, we can recuperate while enjoying relaxed lunches, a cold beer and time to absorb the morning's sightings. We break out the maps to see our route, pinpoint where we saw that lion or giraffe and look forward to where we are headed. We then bring our chairs to a shady spot to write in our journals, identify birds, or read one of the field guidebooks from our mobile safari library. It is also time to siesta and enjoy the cool shade of our tents. In the main area, we can have some light-hearted photo review sessions with Paul- going over images on your laptop, checking or cleaning gear and discussing tips for the coming afternoon session.



Afternoons

We set off in the late afternoon for a calculated game-drive, taking our time to spot and observe. It is a wonderful time for sightings, as creatures begin to become active before dusk. We take time for views, extended observation of wildlife behavior, and to catch the golden hour before the sun goes down, where we can shoot from the vehicle or find a vantage point to set up tripods. We simply bask in the glory of “magic hour” in Africa!





Evenings & night

Back at camp, we relish in the sightings of the day and enjoy refreshing beverages of your choice. Dinners are expertly prepared with global influences like delicate curries, hearty steaks, or chicken stews, along with loads of fresh vegetables, fruit and tasty desserts. (Vegan and vegetarians options are always available.) We lounge in safari chairs around the campfire and listen to the sounds of the night: spotted hyenas whooping, owls hooting, lions roaring. There's nothing like the lively talk of the day's sightings, photographic favorites, conservation endeavors, Maasai history or local culture. We head to the tents for a good night's rest and look forward to another day in the African bush.





COST OUTLINE

\$11,950 per person, based on two people sharing one tent/room

\$950 single room supplement for those requesting a single room/tent

Price includes:

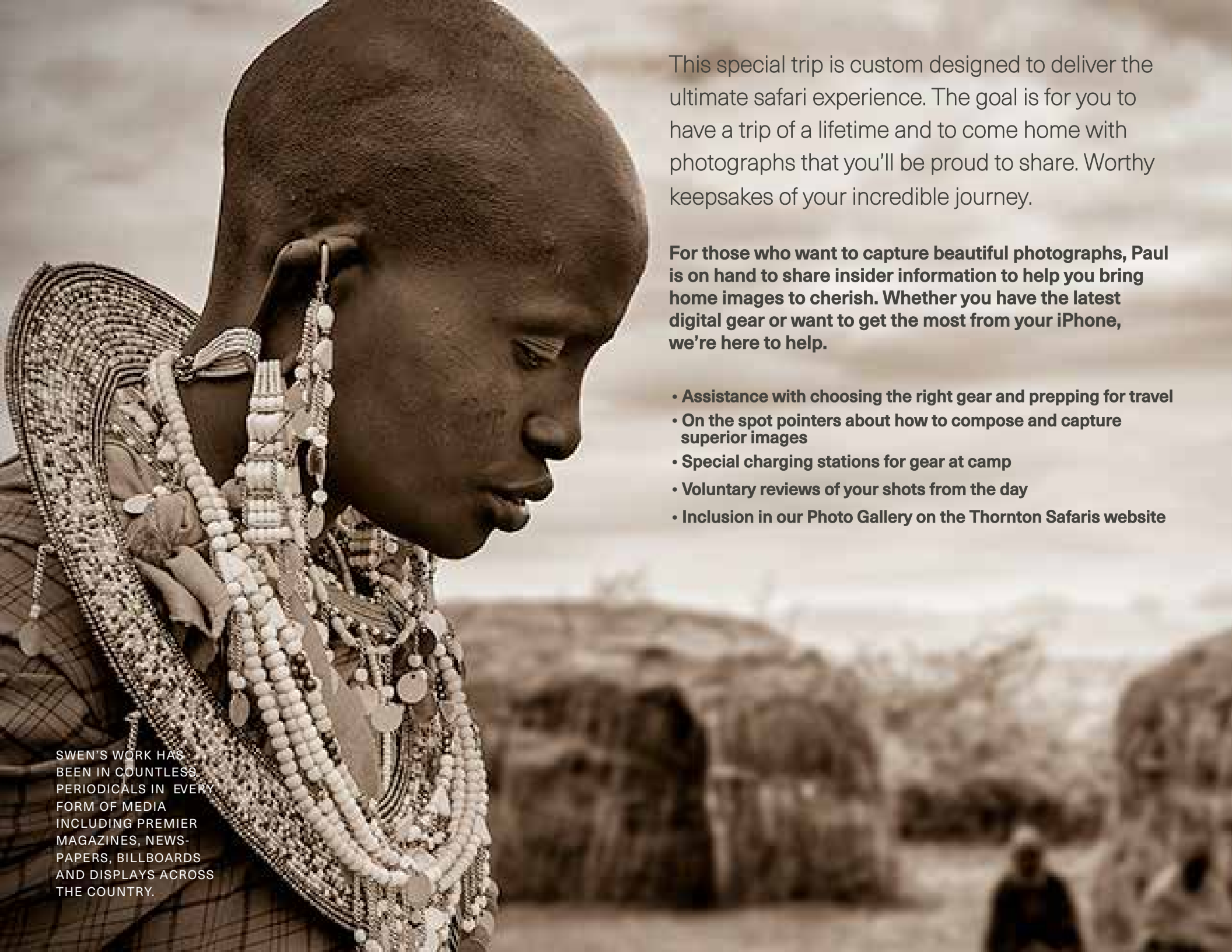
- Private professional guides and safari vehicles for entire safari
- Accommodation, meals and airport transfers
- Drinks at Esirai and Olmara Camp (except premium and champagne)
- Park fees (entrance, special camping permit, wilderness walking)
- 18% government VAT taxes
- Scheduled flight: Serengeti-Arusha
- Local emergency evacuation insurance covering emergency evac from the bush to Nairobi, but not onwards from there
- Carbon offsetting for duration of your stay in Tanzania

Price does not include:

- International airfare
- Insurance (medical, global evacuation, cancellation).
It is required that all trip members have comprehensive insurance
- Gratuities and personal effects
- Any unforeseen large costs such as unexpected government fees or Covid related delays or cancellations.
- Drinks at Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge and Kichuguu Camp

**** To confirm the safari, we require a 30% deposit.**

The full balance is due 45 prior to arrival. Please note that all payments are non-refundable.



This special trip is custom designed to deliver the ultimate safari experience. The goal is for you to have a trip of a lifetime and to come home with photographs that you'll be proud to share. Worthy keepsakes of your incredible journey.

For those who want to capture beautiful photographs, Paul is on hand to share insider information to help you bring home images to cherish. Whether you have the latest digital gear or want to get the most from your iPhone, we're here to help.

- Assistance with choosing the right gear and prepping for travel
- On the spot pointers about how to compose and capture superior images
- Special charging stations for gear at camp
- Voluntary reviews of your shots from the day
- Inclusion in our Photo Gallery on the Thornton Safaris website

SWEN'S WORK HAS BEEN IN COUNTLESS PERIODICALS IN EVERY FORM OF MEDIA INCLUDING PREMIER MAGAZINES, NEWS-PAPERS, BILLBOARDS AND DISPLAYS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

IT'S NOT ONLY WHAT YOU SEE. IT'S HOW YOU SEE IT.

THORNTONSAFARIS.COM

RATED AFRICA'S NUMBER ONE OUTFITTER BY NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



To book your safari

paul@thorntonsafaris.com, T. 713-667-4448, M. 281-433-3865