

# Fancy a chat?

If you're thinking of booking me for a club/society talk, have a flick through the following FAQ and then drop me a line to [andy@faunavista.com](mailto:andy@faunavista.com)



## 1. How can I book you for a talk?

Simply dropping me an email is the best way to go. I'm often out of the country, so an initial phone call might go unanswered. I'll always promise to reply as soon as I have connectivity, but that's not always immediate ☺

## 2. How far in advance should I request you to come to our society/club etc?

As far as possible. Last minute options are very rare for me simply because I might not see your request for a month or so if I'm overseas. I will always reply though, so chuck me some ideas and hold a date or two, and I'll do my best to reply as quickly as I can.

## 3. Do you speak all over the UK?

Yes – and overseas too by arrangement. In the UK I have given talks (or am scheduled to in the coming year) from Harrogate to Cheshire, Bristol to Brighton and all places in between. Many clubs have been spoken to more than once. I am based in South West London, so most places are accessible. **If you are a corporation looking for motivational and/or after dinner speaking or a day's training, then please contact me directly for availability and rates.**

## 4. How long are your talks and how many do you do?

They can be tailored according to need. For most club talks however, they will be in two parts, each of about 50 minutes. Sadly, travel restricts my talk dates in any year to when I'm in the country, so I have to cram them in. That means limited options, but if I can do it, I will. I usually do around 8-12 in a year depending on timing.

## 5. What can you talk about?

My talks are anecdotal: behind the scenes of professional wildlife photography and documentary making. They will tend to whisk you around the globe discussing previous and ongoing commissions and contain video, music, voice-over and of course stills. They are high energy and hopefully thought provoking. Presently I focus on two main talks: "tales from the bush" and "walking with bears".

## 6. How much do you charge?

Fees for talks from photographic clubs are donated to charity, so there is no set amount. However, because I am only able to do so few in a year, I do have to make it work for the charities in terms of maximising the return. Fees have ranged from GBP190 – GBP600. If your club is small, then perhaps combining with another will help stretch the budget. I tend not to charge petrol unless it's a very long trip.

## 7. What kit do you need?

I bring my own macbook, projector and speaker. I am happy to use your projector if calibrated but have no worries about plugging mine in. Otherwise water and a cup of tea is all I need ☺

## 8. Can you talk on Zoom?

Only technical talks can be done this way. My normal talks are full of so much video and music that Zoom is not a supportive platform and as such, talks are given in person all over the country. The reaction of the audience is just as important and the opportunity to engage is key. Rights issues over broadcasting are also a problem with Zoom unfortunately.

## 9. How do I know if you're the right person for us?

Well...you can google me, look up the website or perhaps read some of the following recommendations from societies I've talked to in the last 12 months. I look forward to hearing from you!

### **Swindon Photographic Society:**

*"Do you want a talk for your camera club that enlivens, educates and captivates? Of course you do.*

*Such was our evening, co-hosted by Swindon Photographic Society and Royal Wootton Bassett Camera club, with Andy Skillen and his talk "Tales from the Bush."*

*The interest in "Tales from the Bush" and hearing Andy's stories extended to a number of other local camera clubs, including Cirencester and Cricklade. Making for a very well attended audience.*

*We fastened our seatbelts and let the exhilarating ride commence. Andy, with passion, took us through a catalogue of projects involving wildlife from across the world. Beautiful images, getting up close and personal with animals that a lot of bravados would run a mile from. All to bring you the ever-diminishing environment of our fellow fauna. Bringing to light the need to protect and expand their territories and not ours.*

*Andy's energy and conviction was infectious and our club members will still be talking about this event for years to come.*

*In the time I have been club programme secretary, I've never known so many delegates congratulate and give personal thanks at witnessing such a special occasion and talk.*

*I can't recommend Andy highly enough to all those camera clubs and wildlife centres across the breadth of our nations.*

*This really is a talk to mark out the zenith of your calendar. We'd once again like to pass on our sincerest thanks to Andy for taking the time in giving his presentation, especially with his consuming endeavours to seek out and educate more projects that need our dire efforts to help protect the diversity of this phenomenal planet we all share."*

### **Harrogate Photographic Society:**

*"The presentation from Andy was one of the highlights of our season, with all members recognising his talent and superb photographs. Seeing how Andy interacted with the animals, often in very testing conditions at all four corners of the world was incredibly interesting. Andy came over as genuine and grounded, and there was lots of encouragement and practical support to members to get out with their camera. Harrogate Photographic Society showed their appreciation by supporting Andy's wildlife charities with a donation from members."*

### **Brighton & Hove Photographic Society:**

*"Thank you again for yesterday evening's presentation. Stunning photography accompanied by great story telling. Someone asked about how you get started in this kind of career, and surely one of the key requirements is the commitment to repeatedly go to what are quite often very hostile environments to get these amazing photographs. Most of us would not last 5 minutes, deprived of our comfortable lifestyles.*

*So thank you for doing this on our behalf and for giving us a chance to see these wonderful animals in their natural environment."*

### **Richmond & Twickenham Photographic Society:**

*"Many thanks for your tour de force last night. It really was a wonderful presentation, such wonderful story telling, superb images and video and fun fast paced delivery.*

*A very memorable evening with great reviews already appearing on our members' forum.*

*Good luck with all your amazing charity work and glad we were able to be part of this in a small way."*

### **Pinner Camera Club (and 14 other clubs involved in the competition):**

*"Andy was the judge at our inaugural inter-club wildlife competition. He commented on 60 images with both wisdom and humour delighting and educating not only the photographers present but the wider audience too. His choice of winning images were spot on, and we look forward to having him back to judge future competitions."*

### **Tonbridge Camera Club**

*"Thank you so much for last night... I have been inundated with complimentary emails about 'best presentation we have had', 'Amazing evening', 'Thoroughly enjoyable - could have listened all night'. To name but a few! We look forward to following all the projects that you are involved in and seeing how they develop."*

### **Chelmsford Camera Club**

*"Many thanks for entertaining us with your talk 'Walking with Bears' last night. The consensus was that this was the best talk we have had at the Club. We had a good turnout for these post-pandemic times and lots of positive feedback. The images were stunning and the narrative even better so we were only too pleased to be able to help out with your charity."*

### **Epsom Camera Club**

*"We need to thank you for a most stimulating, professional and entertaining presentation last evening. The ECC chat is already saying how good it was and how useful your advice was. I personally was really interested in seeing some of the techniques behind the TV nature shows that I watch so avidly and learning a bit about the contractual issues that wildlife photographers face. The way that you intertwined fixed shots, video, music and your personality was really excellent."*

### **Ludshott Camera Club**

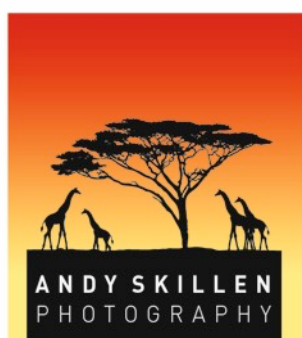
*"A huge 'thank you' for a really excellent presentation on Monday evening. I have had more positive feedback from those attending than for any other speaker:*

*"Excellent, the best speaker we have had in years"*

*"Andy's ability to connect with the animals makes for wonderful images"*

*"Not only is he a great photographer but his presentation skills are brilliant"*

*"Please invite him back in a couple of years so we can see how the bears are getting on with the Paddington Path and hopefully he will have more shots of the Snow Leopards"*



# **CHANGING THE IMAGE OF WILDLIFE TRAVEL...**