

# Group Trips 2028

**Basic info and outlines. For detailed itineraries and rates, and to secure a space, contact [andy@faunavista.com](mailto:andy@faunavista.com)**

ANDY SKILLEN  
PHOTOGRAPHY



Take a look and see if something appeals! For now, I'm only indicating the month of travel as some of these are more than two years away. However, the trips are usually fully booked from about 18 months out, so at least this gives the option for you to get on board and get it on your calendar. Once you have submitted your enquiry, I will finalise the dates and details to you with a full itinerary and costings, so you can commit to your space. Remember, anything here is also available as a bespoke version.

Please note – prices quoted are guide prices only at this stage – many of these trips require complicated logistics and also we are at the whim of ever-changing park fees, conservation fees and fuel levies. However, they are unlikely to change dramatically, so should help you with your budgeting.

## Central African Republic/Congo/DRC:

### A Dark Heart Safari

- **Group size: 14/16**
- **May 2028 (1 departure)**
- **Guided by Andy**
- **Guide price: GBP 16,395**

Ok, so this is one that is very exciting. I am going to charter a boat that can sleep/accommodate up to 28 people, but restrict it to just 14 or 16 of you, and take you up the mighty Congo and Sangha rivers. This will enable you to experience some of the remotest country in Africa in comfort as we will sleep on the boat, and at times in camps along the rivers. Our targets will be **lowland gorillas** in the Central African Republic; **Bonobos** in the DRC (don't worry - in a very safe part of the country); and visits to the legendary **Dzangha Bai** where **150-250 forest elephants** (and **Bongo** if we're lucky) will visit on a daily basis. **Mangabey** tracking will also be available too. This trip will include visits to legendary locations such as Wali Bai, Dzangha Bai and others and give you two treks with two different groups of western lowland gorillas (in CAR and in remote Noubale Ndoki) and two with bonobos (in DRC) each. To assist with logistics and to make the trip even more memorable, I have organized us to have our own camp on an island in the middle of the river for part of the trip too from which we will access some of the activities.

This is truly an epic, 15 day adventure (approximately), and you will have plenty of space on the boat as we will just use around 60% of its capacity and yet have it all to ourselves. Exact departure dates are under review, but expect it to be very early May 2028. Costs are also being finalized at this stage, but expect them to be around GBP16,395 – perhaps a little less – based on estimates.

This is likely also to be the last time I guide such an adventure, as it should time with my complete Congo basin project coming out. As such it's a great chance for you to experience this with me before I slip into retirement!

## **Mongolia:**

### **Valleys of the Cats**

- **Group departure: Mid-February 2028; group size 6**
- **Group guide price: GBP 8,395**
- **Tailor-made travel available from November 2026\***
- **\*note season is November – April.**

This has taken quite a bit of time to get off the ground, but we now have a product ready to go. This 12-13 day adventure will take you into some of the remotest parts of Western Mongolia, with a highly trained tracking team using a local informant network to try and locate snow leopards, pallas cats, Tibetan foxes and a whole range of herbivores. There will also be a visit to Husatai National Park where you will encounter the Przewalski horses of the Steppe – the only true wild-horse remaining and a fantastic conservation success. You will be in prime territory at the right time for the cats, giving you the best possible chance of success.

## **Chile:**

### **Cat-agonia: a puma focus**

- **Group departures: April 2028; group size 6; 1 departure**
- **Group guide price: GBP 8,995**
- **Tailor-made travel available from April 2027 onwards**

This is truly a special big-cat adventure. Over the last few years, I have sent a lot of guests to this spectacular part of Chile on bespoke trips of varying lengths, but in 2028 we will put together one group of six for those happy to travel in a group format and for whom it would otherwise be impossible to go. Starting with a night in Punta Arenas, you will then be transported via two vehicles (3 in each with a guide), via an Andean condor roost (that gives you eye-level options of these birds in flight!) to the private ranchlands that surround the famous Torres Del Paine national park. Having been involved in the habituation of these cats some years ago, I am fortunate enough to have excellent contacts with some of the original guides that worked the region and established the viewing protocols enjoyed by so many nowadays. You will stay for five nights in a private homestead, and then have four full days to explore the ranchland that abuts the park. The great advantage is that you will be able to offroad in the vehicles, and walk where you wish (with the guides!), in order to maximise your potential sightings. This is not possible within the national park, and is the only way to experience the region if you are serious about puma photography. If you are a group looking to extend further, we can include extra days and make this trip bespoke.

## **Zambia:**

### **Call of the Kingdom**

- **Group size: 4**
- **September 2028 (1 departure)**
- **Approximate cost: GBP 9,950**

An exciting adventure to two of the country's most diverse landscapes: the national parks of Lower Zambezi and South Luangwa. We will charter flight between the two locations, and spend roughly four days in each (with a travel day in the middle somewhere). Lower Zambezi is on the opposite side to Zimbabwe's Mana Pools where I've worked – and guided – for many years, and offers a fantastic, and much less busy, alternative. Lion, leopard and wild dog are in abundance on the Zambian side of the river, and it remains a park that is lower in the popularity stakes at this time. You will use vehicles (open completely) most of the time, but if water levels permit will also aim to do some photography from the river itself. From here it will be a trip across country to the huge South Luangwa National Park where you will enjoy staying in a photographic-geared lodge in the heart of the valley. This is the home of "Kingdom" – the recent BBC series – and you will see descendants of some of those famous predator-families that roamed this beautiful landscape. These are beautiful parts of Zambia and their diversity will ensure an incredible experience.

## **BRAZIL:**

### **Paradise in the Pantanal**

- **Group size: 4**
- **September 2028 (1 departure)**
- **Approximate cost: GBP 8,995**
- **Also available as tailor-made**

My ever popular 10 day trip to the jaguar-filled wetlands of Brazil is always a winner, putting you in the heart of the action and almost guaranteeing you some epic wild cat sightings. With time spent also crossing the Transpantaneira road too on the way to/from the prime jaguar zone, we will seek out anteaters (lesser and great), marmosets, tapir and all manner of other wildlife that call this spectacular landscape home.

## **MONGOLIA**

### **The Gobi bear quest**

- **Group size 4/6**
- **14-27 September 2027 and 2028 (1 departure each)**
- **Approximate cost: GBP 8,395**
- **Guided by Andy in 2028 only**

The **Gobi bear** is the rarest bear on the planet, with perhaps 50-60 individuals. It roams the high plains of a completely restricted part of Mongolia, where bactrian camels and other iconic high plateau wildlife are to be found. Access to this area is off limits except for documentary filming and professional photography...so, as a result, because I'm almost certainly going to be going to work, I will be able to take along a small group with me in September 2028 (my own schedule has changed). However, by discussions with the authorities, I have been able to make a 2027 trip available to those who wish to go next year and not wait 'til I can be there. It will be an identical trip. Remember, this is a trip that, from a bear perspective, may have a degree of failure. I cannot guarantee sightings as this is truly an ursine that dwells in inaccessible, remote areas and frequents a handful of oases. This is where we will concentrate our time. If we manage to secure the sightings, you will truly have the image of a lifetime. The team that worked on the BBC series "Asia" are part of what I have set-up to make this work.

## THE FOLLOWING ARE ALL ON A TAILOR-MADE BASIS ONLY

### India:

#### The Kingdom of Kanha

- **Group size: available as part of a tailor-made tour only**
- **January 2027 onwards – dates flexible**

If you've never seen a tiger, and can put up with the prospect that, at times, it can get a bit Masai-Mara in terms of busy-ness around a sighting, then central India remains an excellent choice. For me it has always been Kanha that offers most, based on its size and variety of species. We could run you around to three or four parks....but why? You are far better to focus on and familiarise yourself with one...and the biggest one at that. So what's our advantage? Luckily, my India team are very well connected with the likes of the Forest Dept. Knowing the right people can make all the difference when it comes to drivers, guides and – critically – routes you get to use in the park (they are strictly governed). There are multiple pregnant female tigers right now in Kanha, and the team are logging which zones of the park they are spending most of their time in. Whilst there is never a guarantee, by the time you come to taking your trip, we will have dramatically increased your chances of quality sightings by pushing for access to what should be the most productive zones.

We will also organise an "all day" permit here on one day, meaning you get to stay in the park and not return to the lodge for lunch and have total freedom to roam where you wish. In total, there will be this full day plus 10 other safaris, covering a total of six days' viewing. Again, we avoid the Wednesday so as to not to waste your time when the park is closed. We can organise other activities on that day if you wish.

We are restricting it to just two people per jeep as it is essential in India that you have plenty of room to work (no crowded vehicles!), regardless of the size of your party. I cannot stand seeing people get crammed into jeeps to keep the tour company's costs down. We can also tie this in with other areas too if you wish - be it wildlife or cultural before or after your adventure.

## **India:**

### **Dudhwa Discoverer:**

- **Group size: available as part of a tailor-made tour only**
- **February 2027 onwards – dates flexible**

We will focus you on the three main areas of this much less popular, but spectacular national park with 10 jeep-based safaris covering two zones, and a full day outing to a third. The former will be to target one-horned rhino, swamp deer and tiger (amongst others), whilst the latter will be a boat-based trip with the chance to photograph the gharial, as well as elephant and others that come to the riverside. The Dudhwa area is considerably less busy than all other parks in India, and gives you excellent rhino in particular – rivalling the more famous (and increasingly over-run) Kaziranga. I have formulated a fabulous network in the region, and they will look after you on the ground. We are restricting it to just two people per jeep as it is essential in India that you have plenty of room to work (no crowded vehicles!), regardless of the size of your party. I cannot stand seeing people get crammed into jeeps to keep the tour company's costs down. We can also tie this in with other areas too if you wish - be it wildlife or cultural before or after your adventure. Remember, if you've not been told, all Indian parks close on Wednesday afternoons, so we time your trip to avoid hitting that problem.

**LEOPARD EXTENSION:** fancy seeing the famous leopards of Rajasthan? Let me know and we can add this onto your trip.

**LIONS AND WOLVES:** a side trip to Gujarat can put you in the heart of India's wolf and Asian lion zone, and I can either add that as an extension to any Indian trip, OR give you more time in that region – chasing the likes of Wild Ass too – as a stand-alone trip. All of my Indian adventures are modular, in reality so can be mixed and matched happily and completely tailored to your time and budget.

## **Sri Lanka:**

### **An Island Odyssey**

- **Group size: available as part of a tailor-made tour only**
- **February 2027 onwards – dates flexible**

Sri Lanka is an incredible place. I needed to be there in 2025 as I was rounding up a whole bunch of pictures on Asian elephants that I require, and spending a few weeks hitting some of the lesser-known national parks proved enormously successful. It had been 21 years since I'd last worked in the country, when I'd visited just three months after the tragic tsunami to see how it had affected Yala National Park, and I was a little apprehensive as to what I might find there. I needn't have worried! I am lucky enough to have maintained a good network of guides over the last couple of decades, and therefore my trip around the island was seamless as a result. With multiple elephant, sloth bear and leopard sightings it was highly productive.

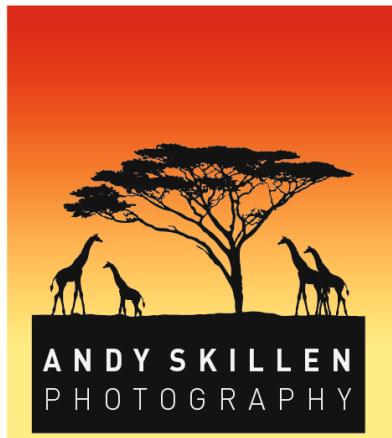
The great thing about the country is the entire array of parks and prime wildlife areas are all within relatively easy striking distance and that means it is perfectly plausible to tailor an itinerary that really ticks each and every box. And it's not just the designated parks where wildlife is going to be seen! You never know what might be around the next corner in some parts of the country.

So what I've done is put together an itinerary that covers some of the most prominent wildlife zones, but avoids the over-populated ones!, and gives you the chance to experience this fantastic destination. Rather than have set departures, I thought the best thing to do was offer you the ideal "range" of months to go (which can then be narrowed down if there is something in particular that you want to witness), and keep it as open as possible by gearing it for groups of 1-4 people. So whether you are a solo traveller, a couple - or indeed a couple of friends - or a group or family that want to see what Sri Lanka has to offer, drop me a line.

**IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE,**

**THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES CAN ALL HAVE FULLY TAILORED TRAVEL ONLY:**

- Tanzania (the usual, and not so usual, side of this wildlife hotspot)
- Kenya (epic experiences in a range of conservancies and parks)
- Alaska (exclusively grizzlies in a number of locations)
- Zimbabwe (Mana Pools by the river and inland, as well as access to other parks such as Matusadona and Gonarezhou)
- Congo (Republic of)



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