

# SABI SANDS

IN SEARCH OF LEOPARDS

25 - 31 JULY 2023





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# INTRODUCTION

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With our photographic safaris and workshops, we at RAW Photographic insist on delivering nothing but the best experience possible for our guests. Not only do we want to ensure a fun, educational and meaningful wildlife experience - it's also important that we do so in a way that's driven by authenticity and ethics. A lot of research and effort goes into designing and building our products and we only partner with those who mirror our ambitions in delivering great experiences whilst also remaining respectful to the land, wildlife and cultures we're visiting.

Photographic safaris often get a bad reputation for being elitist and costing a fortune - and whilst there's certainly evidence of that out there, our mission statement is to counteract this notion. Yes, we work with wildlife and photography - but that doesn't mean it has to cost the world.

Whilst still working in some of Africa's most desired and premier hot-spots for wildlife, our aim is to keep our products as affordable as possible whilst not skimping on the value. All our trips are as inclusive as possible and are hosted by one of our professional photographers for bespoke photographic tuition and to ensure everything sails smoothly - making sure that you have nothing to worry about other than making sure your batteries are charged and memory cards aplenty!

We want nothing more than for our guests to feel confident and at ease with every moment of their experience with us - from the early stages of booking to the final airport goodbyes, so we implement an open door policy where we welcome and promote any and all questions, so please don't hesitate to get in touch with us regarding anything.



Samuel Cox



Sophie Brown



Jason Blow

## SUMMARY

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### Safari Costs

GBP £3,000.00 per person  
on shared basis (2x per room)

Single Supplement not available

### Safari Duration

Six Nights

### Start & End Dates

25 - 31 July, 2023

### Start and End Location

Eastgate Airport (Hoedspruit)

### Safari Location

Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve

### Included Travel

Eastgate Airport to Sabi Sands road  
transfer and return

*Transfer duration is approx 2hrs each way*

## HIGHLIGHTS

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Sabi Sands shares an open border with the Kruger National Park, allowing all animals to roam freely into the reserve

Home to a large array of animals including **the iconic Big Five** plus African wild dog, spotted hyena and much more

One of the very best places in Africa to see leopards. Both the quantity and quality of sightings are often superb

**Minimal restrictions for off-road traversing**, meaning you won't miss out on getting close up sightings

**Over 300 species of birds** have been recorded in Sabi Sands

**Attentive guidance throughout** from your private professional photographer, providing tuition in-the-field and back at the lodge





## ABOUT SABI SANDS

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Sabi Sands is often lauded as the most prestigious private reserve in South Africa, perhaps due to the reserve's longstanding conservation efforts. The original reserve was proclaimed back in 1898 and by 1949 the landowners had merged their properties (mostly ex-agricultural land) into what is now the Sabi Sands Game Reserve.

The huge 650km<sup>2</sup> private reserve shares unfenced borders on the western boundaries of the Kruger National Park allowing animals to roam freely between the reserves. Thanks to the re-purposing of boreholes previously used for the farms into waterholes for wildlife, Sabi Sands can offer a year-round water source not affected by seasonal changes. This means you're never far away from spotting the Big Five and the hundreds of other species that make up the greater Kruger population at any time of the year.

The Sabi Sands is renowned for the Big Five (Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Buffalo and Rhino). In fact it was in the Sabi Sands where the hunting concept that is the **Big Five** was rekindled as a photo safari term. So successful was this term marketed in the photo safari arena that today it is taken as the apex of wildlife viewing whilst on safari in Africa.

Lions roaming the open plains in their pride and rhinoceros congregating in front of your eyes are a sight to behold, but there's one animal in particular that shares a unique bond with Sabi Sands. Leopards, the most elusive of the big cats and normally solitary creatures, are much easier to spot in the brushwood than they are in many other leopard reserves. They still favour a big tree, which they use as an observation platform or a resting place, but you can get within two metres of them before they run away. This unique, relaxed reaction is the result of the ban on hunting, which has lasted for over half a century. Several generations of leopards have never heard a gunshot, or had a reason to fear humans, so their passive attitude is a mixture of indifference and comfort.

## WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

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Sabi Sands is one of the most sought after locations for photographers and nature enthusiasts looking for the best of the best. Elephants, rhinos and buffalos are common place and never cease to amaze, whilst predators such as lions, wild dog and the iconic leopard are the main reason why Sabi Sands is so popular and highly regarded. Of course, with all these animals and predators sharing the same territories - it's a melting pot of animal interactions and hunting.

Game drives are conducted throughout the year at optimum viewing times when game activity is generally at its peak, i.e. early morning and late afternoon into evening. The morning safari departs at sunrise, and the evening drive leaves late enough in the afternoon for guests to enjoy a bush sunset and the opportunity to view nocturnal animals after dark.

We will be utilising a private 4x4 landcruiser and field guide, meaning we have complete control and maximum flexibility to get the best photographs possible. Our photographic group will comprise a maximum of five guests, to ensure extra space and comfort whilst on game drive.

A smaller group also means that more attentive and focused photographic guidance and tuition is possible. This includes in-the-field guidance and support, making sure you not only don't miss a beat, but also discover new creative skills and techniques to elevate your photography. Back at the lodge between drives is the perfect time and location to look at photo cataloging and processing. Open up your laptop and we can look for ways to further improve and streamline your editing skills in Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop... or alternatively we can go over photography basics such as creative composition, the exposure triangle and freezing the action depending on your needs and wants.

Your game drives will be conducted by one of the local field guides with plenty of experience and knowledge of the flora and fauna of the area. They will be the one sharing animal information to help build your knowledge and appreciation of everything you come across. This, plus photographic guidance, means you get the best of both worlds for an unparalleled photographic safari experience in one of South Africa's best game reserves.

## ABOUT THE HOSTS

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**Jason Blow** was grabbed by photography in his mid-twenties, being fascinated by the possibility of capturing moments for eternity. However, he didn't just want to take emotionless pictures, his goal is to capture the feelings that are there at that moment. This drove him to develop his photography skills and to keep learning. Having the freedom and the ability to portray the world as he see it is what excites him and through photography he has learned to see his surroundings in fresh and exciting new ways.

This is what Jason wants to share with other like minded people; how the art of photography can bring new life and perspectives to something as beautiful and raw as nature.



**Samuel Cox** has been a professional wildlife photographer for over a decade, photographing the flora all across Africa. Sam spent four years living in Africa amidst the wildlife and on the doorstep of the famous Kruger National Park, teaching international guests the specifics of wildlife photography and aiding conservation initiatives.

Over the years he's seen his photography and writing published across various platforms through the likes of National Geographic, BBC Wildlife Magazine, Travel Africa, Wildcard Magazine and Africa Geographic. However, it's in his ability to teach that he finds the most reward, and has had great success in seeing hundreds of photography guests develop their creative and technical skills under his mentoring.

IMAGE GALLERY BY JASON BLOW

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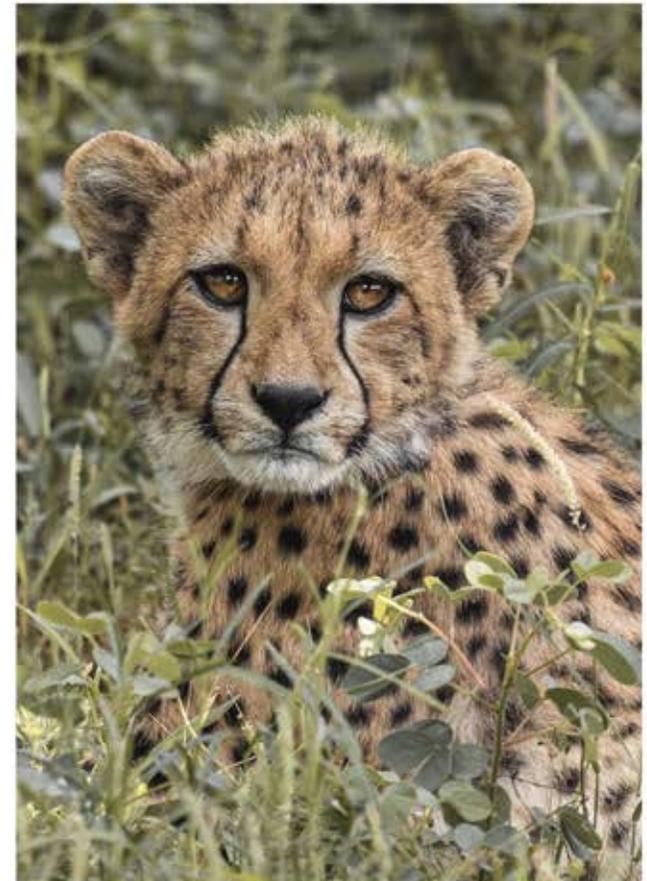


IMAGE GALLERY BY SAMUEL COX

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## OUR LODGE IN SABI SANDS

**Elephant Plains** will be your home away from home in the northern section of the Sabi Sands, which forms part of the Greater Kruger National Park. The lodge is owner run and can accommodate a maximum of 24 guests. This ensures personal service and a warm, friendly atmosphere.

Elephant Plains Game Lodge is situated on the dry Manyeleti riverbed, overlooking an open area and watering hole. The main lodge houses the reception, dining room, bar, lounge & wine cellar, as well as a small library and curio shop. Facilities include two swimming pools, a gym and games room. The lodge caters for the discerning traveller, offering different types of accommodation to cater for a variety of needs.



## ACCOMMODATION

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The Rondavels are set in the beautifully landscaped garden of the original family holiday camp and one can still feel their old bushveld charm upon entering. The Rondavels have been renovated and redecorated to pay tribute to Oupa Dries and Ouma Anna Steyn, without whom Elephant Plains Game Lodge would not have existed.

The Rondavels feature sundecks, air conditioning, overhead fans, mosquito nets, electronic safes, as well as mini bars and tea & coffee facilities.



## SUNDOWNERS AND DINING

A sundowner in Africa is simply a 'happy hour' during sunset over the African Savanna. It's a classic safari tradition dating back to the colonial days. As you finish your afternoon game drive, your guide will take you to a beautiful and remote location in the bush. You may find yourself on a hilltop overlooking the savanna or next to a waterhole watching the wildlife come for their last drink of the day.

Mealtimes are sumptuous affairs, with a combination of international cuisine and South African specialities. Breakfast and lunch are enjoyed in the dining room, or on the pool deck, overlooking the open area. Dinner is served around a log fire in the boma, whilst enjoying the mystical nocturnal sounds under the African sky.







# ITINERARY

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## DAY 1

The safari starts at Eastgate Airport just outside Hoedspruit where Sam will meet your group (being led by Jason) before catching a ground transfer to Sabi Sands. The drive is approximately two hours long and we aim to arrive at our lodge just after noon.

Upon arrival you'll arrive and be welcomed and given the tour of your new home away from home. You'll have the opportunity to settle in and then we'll regroup later in the afternoon for some high-tea and our first afternoon safari. The game drive will see us exploring and being introduced to the Sabi Sands game reserve, and after a quick drink stop, will take us into the early evening where we'll look for active predators and nocturnal wildlife. We'll get back to camp around 19:30 to enjoy drinks before a hearty dinner shared with quality conversation.

## DAY 2 - 6

Game drives start early in Africa. We'll head out around sunrise to take advantage of first light and the ensuing morning golden hour. Our focus will be on finding the best photographic subjects and wildlife experiences we can get; from looking for the large herds of elephants, occasional birding and of course, keeping on the lookout for predators. Having a private vehicle means the world is our oyster and we'll decide as a group what's the best focus for each game drive.

We'll get back to camp in the mid to late morning for a delicious breakfast and some time to relax. This is also the perfect time to work with Jason and Sam on learning more about your surroundings, conservation and your photography and editing skills. Our second daily game drive will see us following up any sightings or information from previous drives - making sure that we stop at sunsets for the iconic sundowners experience. Dinner will follow as usual later in the evening upon return back to the lodge.

## DAY 7

We'll head out for our final game drive and exploration of Sabi Sands before returning back for breakfast. We aim to head out at about 10am so as to arrive back at the airport for noon, so it's a good idea to pack the night before to save time and further enjoy your final hours at the lodge. After arriving back at the airport, we'll say our goodbyes.

# PRICE

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## **Safari Costs**

GBP £3,000.00 per person  
on shared basis (2x per room)

## **Deposit Payments**

A 30% deposit (GBP £1000) is required to secure your space on this safari, paid within 14 days of receiving the invoice. The remaining amount is to be paid no later than 12 weeks prior to departure

## **Included In The Price**

- Return ground transfers from Eastgate Airport to Sabi Sands
- 6x nights shared accommodation at Elephant Plains Game Lodge
- All meals, tea and coffee
- Optopnal bush walks
- Twice daily game drives with private vehicle & field guide
- Photographic tuition and guidance throughout
- All conservation and park fees

## **Excluded In The Price**

- Any accommodation or transfers not specified in the itinerary
- Drinks from the bar
- Any visa related costs
- Any covid tests prior to arrival and upon departure
- Gratuities
- Travel Insurance
- Any items of a personal nature

## CONTACT & BOOKING

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To book your place on this photographic safari, or for additional information, simply get in touch with us via the e-mail address below and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

E-Mail:

[\*\*info@raw-photographic.com\*\*](mailto:info@raw-photographic.com)

For more information on RAW Photographic, including more of our trips and offerings, please visit our website and social media via the addresses below.

Website:

[\*\*www.raw-photographic.com\*\*](http://www.raw-photographic.com)

Facebook:

[\*\*www.facebook.com/rawphotographicexperiences\*\*](https://www.facebook.com/rawphotographicexperiences)

Website:

[\*\*www.instagram.com/raw.photographic\*\*](https://www.instagram.com/raw.photographic)





# TERMS & CONDITIONS

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1. The client who signifies his acceptance of a booking does so on behalf of himself and persons under his authority, which means that all are bound by the terms and conditions ('these terms') of RAW Photographic as if they had made the application themselves.
  2. All estimates or quotations provided by, or bookings made with RAW Photographic are subject to these terms.
  3. A non-refundable deposit of 40% is required within 14 days of booking or by a date specified by RAW Photographic. This deposit is accepted as part of the inclusive fare and will only be refunded if the application cannot be accommodated unless due to circumstances related to COVID. Cancellation of booking, once deposit is paid, forfeits the deposit.
  4. The full amount due by the client to RAW Photographic shall be payable no less than 8 weeks prior to the date of departure. If the full amount is not paid in due time, RAW Photographic reserves the right to treat the booking as cancelled. Bookings made within 8 weeks of the departure date must be paid in full immediately.
  5. If a booking is cancelled by the client within 8 weeks of departure, RAW Photographic shall retain the full deposit and a cancellation fee will be payable equal to 100% of the total inclusive fare.
  6. If the trip is cancelled due to COVID related reasons, the trip will be postponed to the same, or agreed time, the following year. No refunds will be given and the deciding time and date of any cancellation / postponing is at the discretion of RAW Photographic.
  7. Should the client amend his booking at any stage, either in the form of a date change, itinerary amendment or any other change whatsoever, RAW Photographic reserves the right to charge an amendment fee per booking. Booking changes may be made only up to 8 weeks in advance of the booked trip.
  8. RAW Photographic, who reserves the right to and shall be entitled to cancel any tour or product sold prior to departure, shall be obligated to refund all amounts received from the client, who shall have no further claim of any nature whatsoever against RAW Photographic arising out of such cancellations that are not related to COVID and consequent travel restrictions.
  9. Should a client fail to join a tour, or fail to use the accommodation/services booked by RAW Photographic on their behalf, for any reason whatsoever, no refund or liability will be accepted by RAW Photographic.
  10. RAW Photographic provides clients with travel and/or other services either itself or acting as agents for principals engaged in or associated with the travel industry. RAW Photographic represent such principles as agents only accordingly and accept no liability for loss, damage, injury or death which any client may suffer as a result of any act or omission on the part of or the failure of such principals to fulfil their obligations, whether in relation to travel arrangements, accommodation or otherwise. Any right of recourse the client may have, will be solely against the principal.
  11. Cancellation, medical & repatriation insurance is compulsory for all RAW Photographic bookings, and it is the clients responsibility to arrange such insurance. It is strongly recommended that clients also take out insurance to cover emergency travel and accommodation, lost baggage and any other cover the clients deem fit.
  12. The client acknowledges that the fare and itinerary specified, may be varied by RAW Photographic, without notice to the client, at the discretion of RAW Photographic and provided the itinerary and price is not substantially different from the itinerary that the client anticipated enjoying, the client shall not be entitled to cancel the contract. Fare increases may occur, inter alia, due to any increase in fuel costs, game reserve fees, or fluctuation of exchange rates. Should the group number fall below the minimum number required for the booking, RAW Photographic reserves the right to re-cost the fare and raise a surcharge. Should any clients refuse to accept and pay such surcharge, RAW Photographic reserves the right to cancel the tour and retain deposit.
- If you are a single traveller, we will do our best to find a suitable person to share the room/tent, should you request it. If we are unable to find a suitable person, you will be placed in a single room and charged the single supplement fee. We will endeavour to place a participant seeking shared accommodation with another compatible, participant requiring the same. Prior to allocating shared accommodation to participants not known to each other, subject to their approval, we will introduce the participants to each other, to check if both are happy to share the room/tent. In the event they do not wish to share the room/tent and a compatible, participant is unavailable to share a room/tent; all participants occupying unshared rooms or tents on the tour will be required to pay the single supplement cost. Whilst we will, of course, make every effort to assist, we will not be responsible for securing compatible travelling companions for those seeking shared accommodation.

# TERMS & CONDITIONS

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13. This photo safari is designed to be within the capabilities of average people in good health. Some of the time participants may be required to walk over uneven terrain or trails, stepping into and out of Land Cruiser type vehicles, occasionally hiking over short distances - while carrying an assortment of sometimes heavy camera equipment. If you have concerns about your own capabilities and/or fitness as it relates to this trip, please enquire with RAW Photographic before booking for a trip.

By forwarding a signed Registration Form and paying the initial non-refundable deposit, you warrant that, to the best of your knowledge, you do not have any physical or other disability that would create a risk for you or other trip participants. RAW Photographics agent's judgment will ultimately determine an individual's ability to embark upon the photo safari. Once a booking has been accepted, medical circumstances will not be considered as exceptions to the cancellation policy. RAW Photographic assumes no responsibility for medical care.

14. If you sustain an injury or become ill on the photo safari, RAW Photographic reserves the right to continue the photo safari for the benefit of other participants. RAW Photographic will make every effort to assist you while at the same time trying to minimize interruption to the photo safari. RAW Photographic reserve the absolute discretion, in the event of behaviour detrimental to other persons, to decline any person's participation at any time during the photo safari and cancel that person's participation in the photo safari, in which case any refund will be forfeit.

15. The client acknowledges that it is solely his/her responsibility to ensure that he/she is in possession of the necessary travel documents and vaccinations that may be required in respect of the proposed tour and itinerary as well as all health and other certificates that may be required from time to time. RAW Photographic will endeavour to assist the client but such assistance will be at RAW Photographic' discretion and the client acknowledges that in doing so, RAW Photographic is not assuming any obligation or liability and the client indemnifies RAW Photographic against any consequences of non-compliance.

16. RAW Photographic and/or its agents act only as agents for the participants in this photo safari, in regard to travel arrangements including, but not limited to, sightseeing, meals, lodging and transportation, whether by railroad, vehicle, motor coach, boat, ship or aircraft. To the fullest extent permitted by law, RAW Photographic and/or its agents, disclaim liability for injury, damage, loss, or delay which may be occasioned by reason of a defect in any vehicle or for any other reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the participant or in carrying out the arrangements of the photo safari.

RAW Photographic and/or its agents accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine or other causes.

All such losses or expenses are borne by the participant, as the photo safari costs provide for arrangements only for the times and locations stated. Baggage, including photographic equipment is at the participant's risk entirely, and as an insurable risk. Reasonable care has been taken to compile the information in this and the other documents pertaining to this photo safari but circumstances change. For example, airline schedule changes, airline fuel charges, taxes and operational costs are subject to change. RAW Photographic and/or its agents are not responsible for changes that occur and reserve the right to change the date of the trip and / or the price up to the date of commencement of the photo safari. Changes in price may also include adjustments for adverse currency exchange fluctuations.

The right is reserved by RAW Photographic to (i) substitute hotels/lodges/tents/camps of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary or transport where deemed necessary or caused by changes in schedules or equipment substitution; (ii) cancel the photo safari prior to departure, in which case a refund of all payments received for the package will be given. (However, in such event RAW Photographic and/or its agents will not be, responsible for any other trip preparation expenses such as penalized or non-refundable air tickets, visa fees and medical related expenses); (iii) substitute photo safari leader(s) for the leader(s) originally specified, in which case the substitution is not a basis for participant cancellation or refund, and (iv) accept or refuse any person as a participant in the photo safari.

In the event that, at the sole discretion of RAW Photographic, it is necessary or advisable for the photo safari to be cancelled due to such events as outbreak of conflict, government intervention, or withdrawal of access/traffic rights, or in the event of insufficient numbers being available, the refund of all monies paid, pro rata if applicable after commencement, shall constitute a full and final settlement by RAW Photographic and their agents of any obligations to participants. The operation of the photo safari is at the sole discretion of RAW Photographic, having in mind the welfare of all participants and the safe and prudent operation of the itinerary and program.

The Registration Form must be completed and signed by each participant at the time of paying the first deposit. Participation will be declined in the absence of a completed and signed form.

# TERMS & CONDITIONS

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17. The client agrees that he/she will at all times comply with RAW Photographic in regard to his/her conduct.
18. When the client is travelling with persons under his/her authority, he/she warrants that he/she is authorized to bind every member to the terms of the contract.
19. Where RAW Photographic has its own guide leading the safari; even with other tour leaders, all authority for leading the trip will be held by the RAW Photographics guide. The RAW Photographic guide will always collaborate with the other tour leaders on the safari, but authority on the running of the safari, the behaviour of the other tour leaders and the management of the clients during transfers as well as game drives remains with the RAW Photographic guide.
20. These terms constitute the entire terms of the relationship between parties. There exists no other terms, conditions, warranties, representations, guarantees, promises, undertaking or inducements of any nature whatsoever regulating the relationship, and the client acknowledges that he/she has not relied on any matter or thing stated on behalf of RAW Photographic or otherwise that is not included herein.
21. Clients, who have special requests, must specify such requests to RAW Photographic during the booking process. Whist RAW Photographic will always endeavour to accommodate such requests; it does not guarantee that it will always be possible.
22. No amendment, cancellation or waiver of any term or right referred to herein shall be valid or binding unless reduced to writing and signed by both the client and a duly authorized representative of RAW Photographic.
23. No refunds will be considered in any circumstances whatsoever, although RAW Photographic may, in its sole discretion, consider a refund in the event of death or serious illness of the client.
24. RAW Photographic will under no circumstance be liable for any claim whatsoever, unless such claim is due to the gross negligence of RAW Photographic and such claim is lodged in writing with RAW Photographic within 30 (Thirty) days after the end of the tour. Such Liability will be subject to a limitation of R10 000,00 per client and under no circumstances will RAW Photographic be liable for any indirect or consequential loss or damage.
25. South African laws and the jurisdiction of South African courts will govern the relationship between the client and RAW Photographic.
26. The client will be liable for all legal fees on an attorney and own client scale in the event that RAW Photographic has to engage a lawyer to enforce any of its rights or otherwise.
27. Payment received from clients in the form of a deposit and/or full payment for a service forms a binding agreement between the client and RAW Photographic for the agreed services and is bound by RAW Photographics terms and conditions.
28. All image and intellectual rights of RAW Photographic employees and subcontractors are the property of those individuals. These rights will remain with the individual till perpetuity and cannot be impinged on. Sub-contractors working for RAW Photographic have the right to take photographs while working. RAW Photographic will not enter into discussion regarding image rights. Clients will not have the right to impinge on RAW Photographic employees from taking photographs.
29. Please be aware that all Credit Card and PayPal payments will attract a surcharge onto the invoice amount. Direct deposits and international transfers do not attract a surcharge and should land in our account for the exact invoiced amount.

