

Nick Garbutt

A qualified zoologist, **Nick Garbutt** has been a professional wildlife photographer since 1996 and is the author or co-author of six books, including *Mammals of Madagascar* and *Wild Borneo*. He has twice been a category winner in Wildlife Photographer of the Year and is a photographer for Panthera, the wild cat conservation charity



1 MAROJEJY NATIONAL PARK, MADAGASCAR

Madagascar is like no other place on earth and it has captivated me for more than 20 years. Lemurs are certainly the island's most famous and photogenic inhabitants (along with a myriad of chameleons, other crazy reptiles, frogs and whacky insects) and there are several places like Andasibe and Berenty where they are relatively easy to see, but my favourite haunt is Marojejy National Park in the far northeast. This rugged, mountainous rainforest- covered jewel is home to the incredibly rare silky sifaka – seeing it is difficult enough, getting decent photos even harder, but that's part of the allure. There are also helmet vangas – arguably Madagascar's most spectacular endemic bird.

2 DANUM VALLEY, BORNEO

My preferred habitat is tropical rainforest and there are few finer places to experience its magical atmosphere and splendour than Danum Valley in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo. Few sights are more evocative than ethereal early morning mists draped over the canopy, with the melodic calls of gibbons hanging in the air. Photographing animals in the canopy is very difficult, so I concentrate on the forest itself and the smaller things lower down – frogs, reptiles, insects. Horned frogs on the forest floor are exquisitely camouflaged and tough to find, but they are one of my favourite animals and I relish the challenge to showing them in the context of their environment



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3 THE PANTANAL

Rightly famous as the best place to see jaguars in the wild, this giant wetland is one of the world's great wildlife locations. Whether you are into mammals, birds, reptiles or smaller stuff, there is a wealth to see and photograph – especially in the dry season (June - October). Giant otters are now frequently encountered at close quarters along some rivers, where yacare caiman and capybara line the banks with statuesque jabiru storks, while colourful toucans, araçaris and hyacinth macaws fly overhead. There are lodges on the banks of rivers and away from the water in different habitats. They all attract large quantities of animals that are generally approachable and ideal to photograph. Take lots of memory cards and large capacity hard drives.



4 GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest is a convoluted maze of fjords and estuaries dotted with islands covered with lush, temperate coastal conifer forest. This vast wilderness is alive with bears, wolves, eagles, ravens and salmon. This is the only home of the spirit bear – it's not albino but a creamy genetic variant of the black bear and is incredibly rare. Go to Gribbel Island in September and there's a chance you might catch a glimpse. It will set your pulse racing. I'm not a spiritual person, but there is something deeply moving about spending time in this incredible place – there's a sense of the primordial and it connects viscerally.



5 YELLOWSTONE IN WINTER

Yellowstone was the world's first national park (established in 1872) and remains as breathtaking as ever. Its grandeur is unquestionable at any time, but in the depths of winter the landscape takes on an ethereal harsh beauty. The juxtaposition of fairytale frosts, ice and snow with swirling mists and rising steam from countless hot springs and geysers creates a landscape laden with atmosphere, mystique and photographic inspiration and opportunity. In the grip of winter large numbers of bison can be seen around hot springs and in the sheltered valleys it is possible to encounter coyotes, red fox, elk, bighorn sheep and sometimes wolves.

6 MULL AND THE TRESHNISH ISLES

The northwest coast of Scotland has long provided inspiration for photographers. The rugged and beautiful landscape offers a spectacular backdrop for subjects as varied as the capricious conditions for which the region is renowned. The Isle of Mull typifies these inspirational qualities and is one of the best places to see meadows flushed with orchids and other flowers, ancient oak woodlands with gnarled trunks encrusted with lichens and moss, spectacular seashores and impressive waterfalls. Offshore islands like the Treshnish are home to spectacular breeding colonies of puffins, razorbills, guillemots and other seabirds that can be photographed at very close quarters.



7 SOUTH LUANGWA, ZAMBIA

There are many places in Africa that excite me – the Ndutu area in the southern Serengeti for one – but recently I've been fortunate to spend more time in South Luangwa and it has quickly become a firm favourite. Towards the end of the dry season and the beginning of the 'green', the region offers a wonderful photographic safari experience. The riverine areas attract large numbers of elephants, buffalo, Thornicroft's giraffe, Crawshay's zebra, puku and impala. There are also large numbers of attendant predators: the area is one of the best for leopards, and there are good populations of painted hunting dogs that are seen with reasonable regularity. Add to this the numerous breeding colonies of sensational carmine bee-eaters and there is something to grab your attention at every turn.



TOURS WITH NICK GARBUTT

Nick organizes and runs a full program of photographic tours and workshops in partnership with Wildlife Worldwide.

Maximum group size varies from 8 to 10, depending upon the destination, to allow as much one-to-one time and tuition as possible. The aim is to offer unmatched experiences that maximize opportunities to watch and photograph wildlife in the finest locations and to help participants improve their techniques and achieve the best results from their photography, irrespective of their level of experience. Itineraries are carefully designed and the locations specifically chosen to offer unrivalled photographic opportunities. Destinations include, Madagascar, Borneo, The Pantanal, Yellowstone, Serengeti and South Luangwa.

● <http://www.nickgarbutt.com/tours>
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