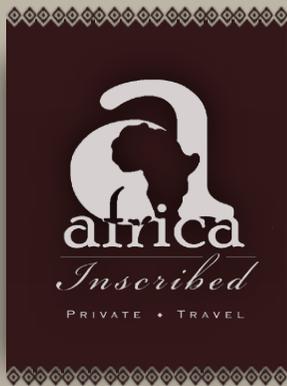




Photography For New Enthusiasts!



Photography is now at everyone's fingertips. Whether it is because of the mobile phone in your pocket, or the camera you have just been given by family for THIS particular safari. If you are confident that you can handle the camera competently enough to collect some great images, then read no further. If however, you need to know more about this subject, then I hope I will be able to give you some fun pointers.

Bear with me! This brief is starters guide to 'Quick Photography'.

What is a Camera?

A camera is a sophisticated light box, (the Body) with various electric settings now for you to control:

1. The amount of light that enters the body through a lens.
2. The shutter speed.
3. Both at the same time, through Manual.
4. None...if the camera is on Auto or 'P'.

There are cameras that have extra settings, indicated by micro icons on a rotating disc on top of the body that are self explanatory, such as a running figure for 'sports' setting, then mountains for 'landscape' images, a portrait head and shoulders for just that 'portraits', a silhouette of a flower for close up and several more. M, P, S and A are important settings we will cover now.

I want to try and give you an idea of how to start collecting pictures that you can take home and feel proud of.

Stage One: Preparation

Ensure the battery is charged, and if you have a spare, that is charged too, and in your camera bag.

The MENU will give you a wide selection of choices to make, but my suggestion at this point is to keep to the basics.

The memory card should be 'Formatted' in the camera you are using, otherwise it will not work or the images will be filed in a different Folder. Tiresome!

Formatting is necessary to clear the memory card, AND prepare it to receive images from the camera processor.

Remember, 'Formatting' will result in ALL OF THE IMAGES ON THE CARD BEING DELETED/LOST FOREVER. Never Format a card unless you have back-up copies of the images you wish to keep. Always ensure you have downloaded everything you want **BEFORE** formatting.

Now we need to attach a lens.

(Some compact cameras come with a lens attached, so this part is redundant for them.)

So, the camera is almost set to GO!



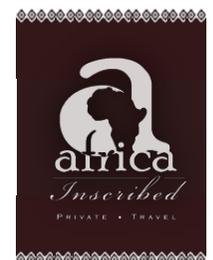
DSLR, Point & Shoot, Compact & Mirrorless cameras



Selector dial for settings



Format your memory card



A Quick Word on Lenses

On safari, we recommend a lens of at least 70 - 300mm length, for wildlife. Of course a serious enthusiast will have possibly a lens up to 400 or even 500mm capacity. But that is serious money.

Ideally, in the camera bag one may have a 24 -70mm, and a 18 – 200mm as well. However, lets be real and stick with the 70 - 300mm for now.

The lens is the important bit that will allow you to capture images on the camera.

The 'longer' the lens the larger the image will be in the camera.

Zoom lenses are built to range between a low number to a higher number, e.g. 18 to 250mm, with a variable F-stop.

Prime lenses are a fixed length e.g. 400mm with a fixed F-stop.

The lower the 'F-stop' rating the 'faster' the lens, such that F2.8 is 'faster' than a 'F5.6'. That means the F2.8 will mean a wider iris (yes, iris) and therefore much more light will be allowed in, than a F5.6, where the iris is smaller, and F16 is much smaller still. So, with our new-found knowledge, a 300 x F2.8 is a fast lens with great capability. (In real life, this is a humdinger of a lens!)

So lets attach the lens to the camera, carefully by matching the dot on the camera body and the lens, fitting them together and turning the lens against the camera body until they 'click'. Voila. Ready for action.

Practice makes one familiar with the equipment!

Digital photography is GREAT for learning. And cheap! Gone are the days when we used to practice and then pay for all the mistakes in film.

Put the camera dial on AUTO or P and carefully focus (let the camera focus...AF) on a subject and press the shutter button. Take several shots of similar subjects, and then review them on the back screen. There may be a slight difference between the images in terms of the light. Many cameras have a 'Info' button, which will then inform you of what the camera did to collect the image.

It will show:

Shutter speed: e.g. 1:125 or 1:500 that means 1:125'ths of a second, 1:500'ths of a second. That's fast enough to freeze a bird in flight!

F-stop: e.g. F3.5, or perhaps F5.6.

ISO: 250 - This equates to 'Film sensitivity'. High ISO like 1000 or higher allows you to collect shots in low light, BUT the catch is if you go too high, like 2000 or higher the image may get 'grainy' and not be smooth textured. ISO 200 is good.

WB: White Balance - This is normally selected using tiny icons indicating a number of situations, such as: A (Auto), Light bulb (Incandescent light), Fluorescent tube, and Bright sunlight, Flash, Cloudy and Shade.



24-70mm 70-200mm 70-300mm



Line up the dots & click

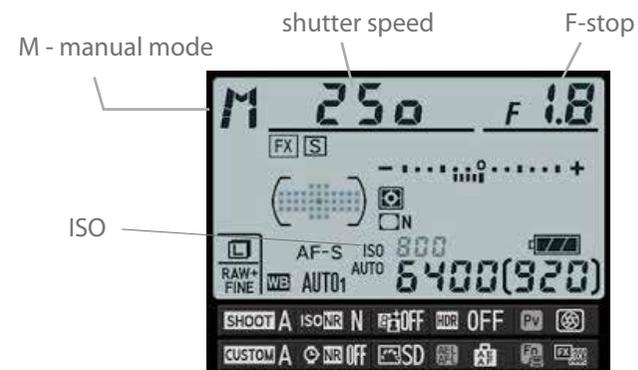


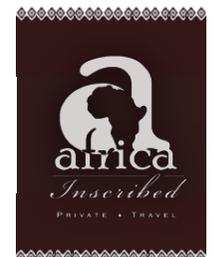
Image Info display



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Don't be intimidated by the information presented to you!

Let's stick to what's going to work for you.

Put the camera on AUTO, or 'P' on the top dial.

Put the ISO on to A, or 250 to 300 to start with, and higher if it is a dull day. The camera will do the rest.

In time you will feel the need to experiment with the settings, such as M, P, S, and A.

M = Manual - You can preset the shutter speed, aperture(f stop), ISO etc..

P = Programmed auto mode - Essentially the camera takes control and you just shoot.

S = Shutter priority - You set the speed of the shutter and the camera does the rest.

A = Aperture priority - You set the size of the aperture, and the camera figures out the rest.

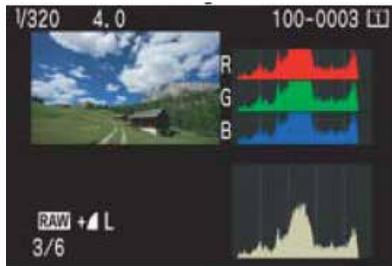
Now, remember to practice a few shots every morning, before you head out on a drive just to make sure you are in the right mode and the settings are good.

AND always change your settings back to day settings if you were shooting something the night before, because all too often we forget and when that one in a million shot presents itself you are going to mess it up.

Have fun!



Histogram



Shooting Information



Canon & Nikon SLR top views showing Selector Dials



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