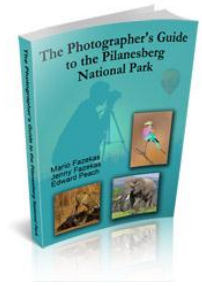


The Photographer's Guide to the Pilanesberg National Park

Authors:

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About the authors:

I spent 3 evenings in August 2012 in the Kwa Maritane hide, Pilanesberg. It was here that I met Mario and Jenny. I was captivated, not only by their knowledge of animal behaviour, the Pilanesberg National Park, nature, and their photography experience, but also their incredible personalities, willingness to share information and help a novice like me, but above all, their love for nature and acknowledging God in all of this.

I 'met' Edward on a Facebook Group, 'Pilanesberg – Gem of the North West'. His photography fascinated me, and every day I would look out for another of his amazing photos taken in the park and the knowledge that came with it. The authors of Photographer's Guide to the Pilanesberg National Park are truly authentic reference authorities on the park, wildlife and photography.

Value in Photographer's Guide to the Pilanesberg National Park

I first heard of the of the Photographer's Guide to the Pilanesberg National Park when I met Mario and Jenny in the hide. The book was still 'work in progress' but I eagerly anticipated the publication of the book to help and guide me. I knew then that this was a book that I wanted and have kept tabs on the publication dates.

As a wildlife enthusiast and novice-to-intermediate photographer I realised I needed to know more about the environment I would be shooting in; and needed more information about animal behaviour. The Photographer's Guide to the Pilanesberg National Park enables me to enjoy my passion instead of agonising about what, where and how to get the good photographs; understanding the "right time, right light, right places" of Pilanesberg National Park that result in a great photograph.

"As a wildlife photographer, you should therefore be 'light' or 'situation' driven, and not 'subject-driven'".
Photographer's Guide to the Pilanesberg National Park, pg. 9

For an experienced or pro wildlife photographer it provides knowledge of the park, seasonality, important light information and regular game "hang-outs". The information also extends to sharing whether the waterholes and hides are typically morning or afternoon venues and that the situation changes through the seasons. The content of the book covers every part of the scouting that requires so much time and recurring visits. It reduces a large portion of the time spent getting "The Shot" as copious time and research has gone into enabling the photographer to be ready at the "right time, right light, right places" of Pilanesberg National Park.

Content and Structure

The book has direction and purpose. It is clear that the objective of Photographer's Guide to the Pilanesberg National Park is to provide photographers and tourists alike, enough information to make the visit pleasant, practical and productive. The structure, logic, layout and the flow is easy to read. More importantly, it is simple and practical to use as a reference for park visits. Photographer's Guide to the Pilanesberg National Park starts off by explaining to you how to use the book as a reference and providing tourists and photographers with good advice on equipment, clothing, tips and tricks.

The park is too large to cover in a day unless you drive continuously (a good way NOT to see or photograph much). Photographers, therefore, would need to select an area for the morning light and late afternoon light and the book splits the park into 4 major areas and details what to expect per area. There are plenty of detailed maps of the areas in greater detail than the standard park maps, including vantage points and indicators of the sun direction at the various times of day, makes this great for planning a game drive.

Using this information you can plan which gate to use on a particular day and then follow the guidance provided for that area for mornings. The same for the late afternoons - from personal experience the park has a lot of hills and you may find yourself in the shadow of a hill in the morning or afternoon and your photo opportunities are down the drain. Taking this book with you will prevent all this pain and wasted time on lessons learnt.

The read is fun as the authors include real-life stories, many of which brought on a chuckle or a smile as I could relate to several of them. Supporting illustrations, maps and excellent photographs round off this information gem. The photos alone are worth the buy and read!

Summary of review

I found Photographer's Guide to the Pilanesberg National Park an asset to me for Pilanesberg trips but I also gained a great deal of knowledge that can be applied to other national parks, safaris and wildlife excursions.

- The book certainly achieved all its objectives,
"This book is intended to assist photographers of all levels to find and successfully photograph Pilanesberg's flora and fauna. If you are a first-time visitor to the park this guide will help you find interesting subjects, suggest best times of the year or day to photograph them and we also suggest the best photographic gear to help you get great shots". - *Photographer's Guide to the Pilanesberg National Park, pg. 8*

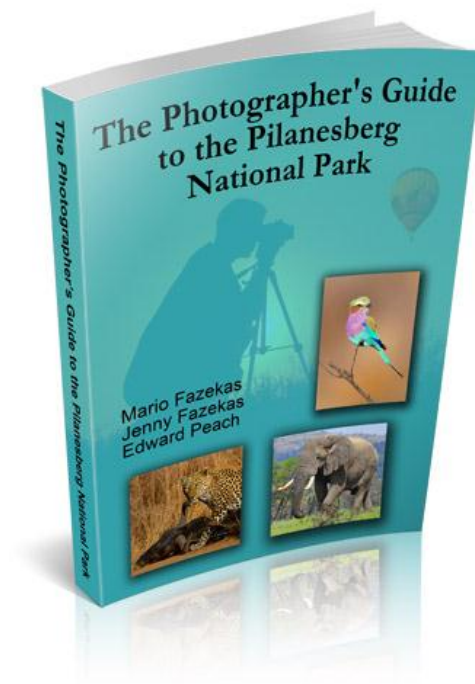
There is SO much information to process that I would recommend that you read the book end to end and the next time you go to the Pilanesberg National Park, decide which area to visit and then study this relevant section **pragmatically**

- The book gives you ample information and lighting information with seasonality and related day light times that would help you in your photography and sightings. If you follow the direction and guidance you should succeed
- The book does not cover much for day visitors and facilities for day visitors like ablution, water, drinks and food options. To note: With the park's limited facilities I learnt to pack sufficient water and other fluids in a cool bag as well as basic food items to carry you through the day as the best option, although the camps do provide limited offerings of food and beverages
- I have looked for books, on-shelf and on the internet, to give me the information I need for wildlife photography in order to prepare and gear up and know what to look out for and for park information. Most books showcase the photographer's work but the 'how-to' information to get to that level is limited.
Photographer's Guide to the Pilanesberg National Park is the BEST book and source of information BY FAR!

- Although the book had not been published in August when I met them, Mario and Jenny gave me a lot of information during our hide visit which I applied the following day and every time I had success at sightings and with my photographs. Some of this knowledge I obtained from them I then read again in the book - it is worth applying their recommendations, you will be successful!

Enjoy the read and the photographs. It's an amazing experience compiled by amazing people!

Reviewer: Amanda Ellis - Wildlife and Avian Photography Enthusiast



For more information or to purchase your copy of the eBook please [click here](#)