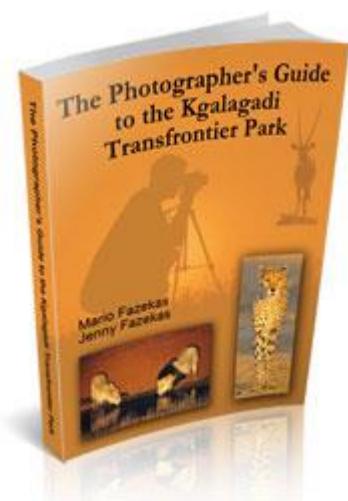


## ***The Photographer's Guide to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park***



**Authors:** Mario Fazekas & Jenny Fazekas

### **About the authors:**

I spent 3 evenings in August 2012 with Mario and Jenny in a hide photographing elephant and rhino at a waterhole. This was my first experience of night photography, needless to say, it was challenging. Their knowledge of nature and photography grabbed my attention as the helper and guided me through my inexperience. I have followed their travels, books and photographs ever since.

### **Value in the Photographer's Guide to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park eBook**

I have not had the privilege to visit the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park so when Mario requested that I review this book I grabbed the opportunity as I need to prepare and know what to expect when I take on this adventure.

The Photographer's Guide to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park sheds light on all aspects required when planning your itinerary, booking your accommodation, ensuring that your equipment and luggage is adequate and appropriate. Furthermore, once in the Kgalagadi, your drives and outings you intend taking can be planned with relevant and helpful information; information on the best light, angles and distances to waterhole which will aid in setting up for the best possible photographs.

***As a wildlife photographer, you should therefore be 'light' or 'situation' driven, and not 'subject-driven'. In other words you should be seeking out good light opportunities and then looking for a subject in those excellent lighting situations. If you find an exciting photo subject (like a leopard) at midday or hidden in bushes, the resulting photo will not be pleasing, but an ordinary subject, like a gemsbok in early morning or late afternoon light will make a very pleasing photograph.***

*The Photographer's Guide to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, Page 14*

The information provided in this book will help you to enjoy the experience rather than ending up in the wrong place or time, which could lead to disappointing photographs and a less pleasant trip. The content of the book covers every part of the park saving you endless time and agony finding the right places. It abridges 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 the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

### **Content and Structure**

The 300 page book is structured and the layout easy to read. I read the book on my tablet so rest assured that you can take this book anywhere on mobile devices.

The objective of The Photographer's Guide to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park is to provide photographers and tourists enough information to make the visit pleasant, practical and. for wildlife photographers, productive. The

structure, logic, layout and the flow is easy to read. More importantly, it is simple and practical to use as a reference before and during park visits.

The Photographer's Guide to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park provides a guideline on how you should use the book as reference and provides visitors with good advice on equipment, clothing, tips and tricks.

**NB:** *An interesting configuration with a simple solution for stacking equipment on a car seat, is a must read on pages 120 -122!*

An additional bonus is that they have included 17 Photographic lessons throughout the book. I find these lessons very valuable and interesting. All the lessons can be applied in any park or situation so take notes and learn from the experiences shared.

The park is too large to expect to find sightings all day and driving from morning to night may leave you disappointed. The Photographer's Guide to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park will provide you with the information you would require to make decisions on where to spend your time for optimal experiences and photography.

The book consists of plenty of detailed maps of the Kgalagadi (in greater detail than the standard park maps), including vantage points and indicators of the sun direction at the various times of day, thereby making this great for planning a trip. Using this information you can plan which camps to visit and spend more time at, following the guidance provided for daytime and night-time photography from the camps, at waterholes and along the roads in each area. Taking this book with you will prevent plenty of pain and wasted time on lessons learnt and the read is fun as the authors include some of their interesting experiences.

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 The Photographer's Guide to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park a “must have” for planning my trip and believe regular visitors to the park will also find it invaluable for future trips. The book is packed with knowledge that can be applied to other parks, safaris and wildlife excursions via the photography lessons and additional advice for photographers.

- The book certainly achieved its objectives, at all levels

***The Kgalagadi is a park of amazing contrasts, from the deep red sand dunes, white calcrete cliffs, white salt pans sparse vegetation and dry riverbeds of the Auob and Nossob to an eruption of wild-flowers, carpets of swaying grass and even flowing rivers in some years. This park is a photographer's dream because it provides you with many photographic opportunities, from the famous Black-maned lion to the wonderful birds, amazing landscapes and wild flowers. Page 11***

There is SO much information to process that I would recommend you read the book end to end and the next time you go to the **Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park**, decide which area/s to visit and then study the relevant sections **pragmatically**.

- The book gives you ample information and guidance, which if followed, would help you in your photography and sightings, enabling you to get some awesome shots!
- The book covers the park accommodation and facilities so it's the ideal tool to use when planning and preparing your trip in order to get the best out of your holiday.
- I have not been able to find a similar or equivalent book on the Kgalagadi which is so comprehensive as The Photographer's Guide to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

*Enjoy the read and the photographs - It's an amazing experience by amazing people!*

**Reviewer:** Amanda Ellis - Wildlife and Avian Photography Enthusiast

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