



WILD EXPOSURES



A JOURNEY INTO ALASKA

Newsletter Issue 1: Summer 2019

Into the wilderness . . .

Our recent excursion to the Alaskan wilderness yielded some incredible and amazing sights to see. From the remote wilderness and wondrous mountain ranges to the peak of Denali, the impressive Matanuska Valley, and the coastal bears and colourful puffins of Alaska's Lake Clark National Park, there was plenty of natural wilderness and beauty for the nature lover and photographer alike.

Our journey into Alaska's wilderness started with a lovely remote stay at Caribou Lodge in the Talkeetna wilderness, where our small and intimate group of guests enjoyed a warm welcome, private lake side accommodations, and mountain views. We enjoyed many scenic hikes through the region; a wonderful destination to relax and submerge yourself into nature's beauty, leaving all the pressures and stress of city living behind you.



A walk among grizzlies . . .

An iconic destination to enjoy coastal brown bears (grizzlies), Lake Clark National Park had much to offer. Following a scenic flight along Cook Inlet, Silver Salmon Creek lodge offered the perfect accommodation for our intimate group. Situated in proximity to impressive volcanic peaks, dense forests, tidal flats, and expansive grasslands, there were plenty of opportunities to view these magical bears in their preferred surroundings. Led by a personal and knowledgeable tour guide, our guests enjoyed several excursions of bear viewing daily which offered plenty of time to learn about their natural behaviour of the resident bears, as well as photograph these magnificent animals in their impressive habitat. Keeping group sizes small and manageable provided added comfort in knowing that the bears are treated with respect and minimal intrusion of their space.

Grizzly bears are prototypical omnivores and in this region of Alaska they typically dine on berries, clams, crabs, sedges, and salmon as their favourite food sources. During early July, male grizzly bears are feasting rapidly as well as looking for opportunities to mate; while females with cubs are teaching their young valuable survival skills.



An excursion by boat offered another intimate and unique experience venturing to a local island to view horned and tufted puffins. This was an added treat for our guests as they enjoyed wonderful interactions and activity of these amazing sea birds. The added sightings of peregrine falcons, murre, and auklets offered an added treat for the bird lover and photographer.



Rivers of Ice . . .

The final leg of our journey took us on a glacial exploration. From tide water to valley glaciers, they offered reminders of a frozen realm ten thousand years ago. To observe the sheer scale of these glaciers, the thick compaction of ice, wildly deep crevasses, gives one an awe-inspiring view. Even though some of these glaciers were more than 40 kilometres long and 300 metres thick, most of the northern hemisphere's glaciers are receding with the change in climatic conditions. The changes to Alaska's glacial landscapes were evident on this journey from even just a few years ago.

Throughout the forests and pristine lakes of the Matanuska Valley, we observed moose, eagles, loons, and a myriad of songbird species. This tranquil and diverse landscape offered our guests the opportunity to witness Alaska's remote natural beauty, and with extended daylight hours offered numerous photographic opportunities.



"This tour organised by Wild Exposures was wonderful and amazing! Going to remote places with beautiful nature and wildlife; sweet puffins, but also bears and moose. We had an exceptional time, and all was perfectly organised by Darren and Tina." - Guest



3 Key Nature Photography Tips

TIP #1: *Light is key*

Photography is about painting with light. How the light interacts with your subject is the most important factor to consider. Front lighting (having the sun at your back) provides the most detail and rich colours and tones on your subject. Side and back lighting can be very creative, but only when the sun is at a low angle and generally not during mid-day. Overall, the golden hours (early morning and near sunset) provide the best light as well as the highest activity patterns for wildlife.

TIP #2: *Get down low*

Getting low when photographing your subject can help create a more natural perspective. This not only draws viewers in and creates a strong connection to wildlife (being at their eye level), but also helps to create a more distant and less distracting background. Don't be afraid to change your perspective, this often yields the most extraordinary images.

TIP #3: *Patience is a virtue*

Spend time with and understand your subject. Learning about animals' specific behaviours is not only paramount to ethically enjoying them and gaining valuable knowledge, but it also greatly helps predict behaviours ahead of time that can be captured. Patience does pay off and the greater time you spend the more you will be rewarded with phenomenal and intriguing imagery!



For more nature photography tips, view the full blog post on our [website!](#)



What's New!

YELLOWSTONE & GRAND TETONS
OCTOBER 1-7, 2019



NEW TOUR!

We've added a **Community Events Page!** Visit us for info about upcoming community education workshops and events!



Tina Antrobus is a seasoned practitioner and educator in the mental health field. She believes that connecting with nature is a pathway to healing the mind/body/spirit and incorporates her love of wildlife and nature photography into her wellness practice. Tina's growing body of imagery has been recognized and published by well-known wildlife media and print forums.



Darren Colello is a wildlife biologist, photographer and educator. With over 30 years of experience in the field, Darren has travelled to five continents and believes in capturing the animal's true essence and majesty in his photographic imagery. Darren's images have been widely published in *Africa Geographic*, *WWF Canada*, *Wild Planet Photo Magazine*, and more.

For tour information and upcoming community events: Please contact Darren and Tina, WILD EXPOSURES
Email: info@wildexposures.ca or visit www.wildexposures.ca



Looking Forward to 2020 . . .

Introducing our new Conservation Series

These conservation focused tours take place in wildlife rich areas and are designed to empower the community, protect endangered species, and safeguard natural habitat. All of our tours are intimate small group adventures, led by a wildlife biologist, and in exquisite wilderness regions. These areas are personally chosen to have high wildlife diversity, and are exclusive, pristine and unhurried. Each tour in this series includes a donation to special conservation projects ongoing within these countries.



ULTIMATE BOTSWANA - SUMMER 2020

WILD ZAMBIA - SUMMER 2020

KENYA: MARA'S MAJESTY - SPRING
2020

BORNEO'S RAINFOREST KINGDOM -
LATE SUMMER 2020

