

AN ASSESSMENT OF WILDLIFE TOURISM PHOTOGRAPHY IN NATURE AND ECO-TOURISM DESTINATION - A CASE OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Since ancient time, people travel for varied reasons. These reasons could be trade, adventure, leisure of any kind. (Dixit Saurabh, 2013). Tourism is a multifaceted activity. Wildlife photography is skill set or art of photography (to capture images) used for the documentation of animals, insects living in their natural habitat. It is a travel activity full of adventure (travel with risk in changed physical settings), as there is a lot of effort and patience required to capture and document animals, birds and insects with photographic skills etc. The present paper will provide a brief overview about the perquisite used for nature and wildlife photography for tourists, travelers.

Key words: Eco-Tourism, Wildlife Conservation, Photoshop, Shading, Morphing, Anti-alisaing

INTRODUCTION

Wildlife photography is skill set and art of capturing birds, insects, wild animals or spotting an animal that is living freely and happily in its natural habitat. Wildlife photography can show the beauty of the nature, landscapes, flora and fauna, animals and create awareness by showing their natural beauty. Wildlife photography can be performed in the events of eco-tourism which include jungle safari, bird watching, watching various majestic and endangered species in the flora-fauna of various natural habitats like majestic Tigers in Kanha (Madhya Pardesh)/ Pench, Asiatic Lions at Gir (Gujarat), bird watching at Chilka lake (Odisha, India), various animals in Sundarvan (West Bengal and Bangla Desh), one horned rhino at kaziranga National park (Assam, India) etc. Wildlife photography can capture pictures of endangered species and animals at a risk of extinction and an awareness can be made among the people through documenting the animal and its beauty. Various NGO'S like Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT) work for the conservation of wildlife, through documenting them and spreading awareness through various media and print forms.

Wildlife photography can also be a

recreational activity, volunteer activity as people visit various wildlife centuries, National parks, and wildlife conservation parks and Natural habit which are rich in its flora and fauna. Indian has a total of 21.23% forest cover with various forms of flora and fauna and has 90,000 different types of animals including over 350 mammals, 12,000 birds and 50,000 plants species. Both domestic versus international; inbound and outbound tourism can be promoted for wildlife photography in India, as it is rich in its geographic forms.

Purpose of wildlife photography

- Educational
- Volunteer
- Recreational and adventure
- Knowledge enhancement
- Awareness

Nature and Wildlife Tourism

Indian is a famous destination for wildlife. There is continuous traffic increment in various wildlife sanctuaries, parks.

Wildlife tourism is interaction with wild animals, habitats etc. Wildlife tourism is an upcoming area. People are interested to visit wildlife sanctuaries and capture memorable events. It is a life time dream for many to see rare species and have encounter with wildlife. There is continuous growth of tourism.

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On the other side, there is good demand of wildlife photography due to two reasons:

1. To capture good and memorable images to market the destination
2. To capture good and memorable images to keep for memory by the tourists, tour guides, local vendors and stakeholders.

Tools for photography

Photography is based on few tools. These tools are very important. These are:-

1. A good camera
2. Tripod
3. Lenses

But, ultimately intelligence and skill set of a photographer is important. He can come out with memorable pictures.

Types of photography

Photography is a complex activity. It depends on the purpose and objective. Roughly, it can be divided as:-

1. Areal
2. Modeling
3. Nature
4. Night
5. Adventure
6. Animal
7. Architecture
8. Aura
9. Medical

Wildlife photography is a combination of nature, adventure, night, animal and areal.

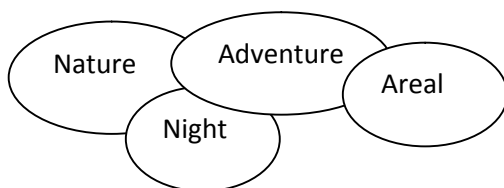


Figure-1: Wild Life Photography

Eco-Tourism

Eco-tourism is any travel activity within a time frame outside the usual place of living for some purpose without harming or disturbing ecology of the place. It makes the tourism destination sustainable for longer time period.

Nature Tourism

Nature Tourism is concerned with nature. Tourists travel to a place full of natural activities. He enjoys natural beauty like: rivers, mountains, trees, animals.

Types of Wildlife Photographs

There are various types of wildlife photographs according to the environmental portraits and the frames. Camera settings play a vital role in documenting the wildlife (refer methodology). Some of the forms are environmental portraits, full body portraits, frame filling portraits, different gestures, capture behavior etc.

❖ Capture behavior, gesture and posture:

It tells more about objects personality and life. Gestural capturing presents different attitude of an object which are captured while the object performing different gestures.

❖ Environment related portrait:

It includes the object to be captured with the natural surroundings, which conveys a message through a photograph or a story.

❖ Full body portrait:

It does not include the surrounding and the prime concern is to focus on the object which is to be captured.

❖ Frame-filling portraits:

It has the prime focus on the face of the object in the frame.

Information Technology

Information is a vital resource in the development of Tourism. (Dixit, 2012). Information Technology has changed communication through images, videos drastically. It has given new flip to travel wildlife and adventure photography.

Technical Methodology

- Check the Shutter speed (use a faster shutter speed).
- Check the Aperture.

- Have the knowledge of the surrounding where the pictures being captured and about the animal being documented.
- Click the picture and use suitable software's (for example: Photoshop) for the evaluation.
- Apparatus should be carried which include camera, telescopic lenses, batteries, tripod, gimbal, binocular or a monocular, head lamps, telephoto lenses, camera bags for long lenses, rain covers for lenses, tele convertor, macro lenses for insects, long focal length lenses for birds and underwater camera for marine life etc.
- Check the ISO for daylight should be 200 or less and for moonlight it should be 1600 or more.

Dos and don'ts

- Stay inside the sanctuary.
- Do not make noise
- No rush and crush traffic
- Do not spoil the place by throwing garbage
- Do not feed animals
- Don't get too close of the animal, insects. Keep safe distance.
- Don't panic sometimes you need to have patience for a long time.
- Don't get too catch up.
- Avoid using strong perfumes, food with intense smell (like: Oranges) and other smelling substances.
- Don't click nocturnal animals.
- Do not overcrowd. Use a faster shutter speed.
- Know about the 'flora and fauna' of the surrounding and its various important geographic conditions.
- Be patient and silent.
- Be sound at photographic skills.



Figure-2: Parrot in its natural habitat

F/5.6

ISO: 100

Focal length: 300 mm

Max. Aperture: 5

Source: Mr. Sajal Dixit, Gwalior



Figure-3: Lotus Temple

f/2.2, ISO: 32,

focal length:35mm, max aperture2.5

Source: Mr. Sajal Dixit, Gwalior

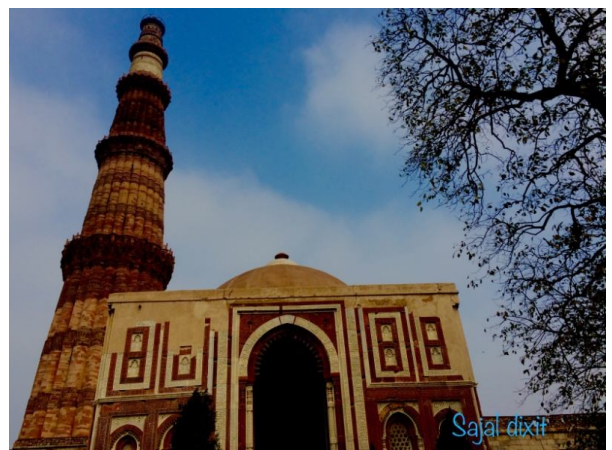


Figure-4: Qutub Minar

f/2.2, ISO: 32,

focal length:4 mm, max aperture2.5

Source: Mr. Sajal Dixit, Gwalior



Figure-5: Taj Mahal
f/2.2, ISO: 28,
focal length:35 mm, max aperture2.4
 Source: Mr. Sajal Dixit, Gwalior

Effects in wildlife photography

Many good effects can be made in the photographs to give better impression. These effects could be morphing, anti-aliasing, slow motion, and shading. Morphing helps to clarify changes in the posture of object.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Wildlife photography can be used for spreading awareness about the endangered species by beautifully documenting and presenting it in the tourism fraternity, society and at various educational institutes, and can be enjoyed as a recreational activity at the various applications of eco-tourism. Domestic and international; inbound and outbound; solo and group; casual and serious tourist can be attracted which may have a positive impact on the industry and create employment, awareness etc.

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Acknowledgements

Mr. Sajal Dixit, Mr. Aman Sharma and Mr. Sushmit Chauksi for contributing images and technical knowhow and concept
