

Kibale 2022

Portraits from a forest



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Gerry van der Walt

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*For print inquiries or tour information
email info@gerryvanderwalt.com*

With 13 different species, the number and diversity of primates in Kibale National Park is the highest in the whole of Africa.

The most popular of these are without a doubt chimpanzees with around 1450 individuals living in the forest, making it an amazing destination to see and photograph these big apes.

Photographing primates like chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans can, at times, be as frustrating as it is rewarding as the foliage and green forest environment often leaves you with very narrow gaps and channels to shoot through.

That said, by leaning into the environment and including it in your images, albeit slightly out of focus, and by allowing the scene to develop you can be assured of some very intimate images and visuals.

Chimpanzees are undeniably human in their mannerisms and if you allow yourself to loose yourself in their eyes and actions you'll not only experience a connection few other wildlife moments can match, but you'll have a much deeper understanding of how to photograph these amazing animals.

All the following images were, after a very short hike, made during an hour with three male chimpanzees and represent beautiful and intimate moments inside the amazing green forests of Kibale.

Stay safe and don't forget to be awesome.

Gerry

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Gerry van der Walt is a South African based life coach, international expedition leader, creative and co founder of Wild Eye.

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