

Arrangements have been made for the next PCC Fieldtrip.

What

A Predator and Prey photo shoot.

Where

Out of Africa Wildlife Park in Camp Verde, AZ

When

Sunday, December 6.

Due to the holiday we are going to deviate from the normal fieldtrip day of the 4th Saturday. In speaking with the owner, he said we'll have a much better experience if we go when the park is less crowded and he said the Saturday after Thanksgiving is really crowded. They can not do Saturday, December 5 because they are participating in 2 parades that day and will be short of staff and some animals will be gone. The good news is the park doesn't officially open until 9:30am and the owner said Sunday mornings are slow to get busy.

Itinerary

8:30am

Arrive and purchase admission

8:45am

Board Park's Big Unimog vehicle, get gear ready

9:00am

Serengeti Safari and photograph the Prey (antelopes, giraffes, zebras etc.) They have baby zebras and antelopes right now. The light will still relatively be soft at 9:00am as we will be just two weeks from the Winter Solstice. Sunrise will be at 7:18am and Sunset at 5:19pm on Dec. 6

10:00am

Predator shoot with big cats

Noon

Lunch on your own in the Park

1:15pm

Tiger Splash. Event when the handlers get in with the Tigers and get them to jump into a large pool as they chase toys. The owner said he might be able to do something special for us there but he had to think about it.

3:00pm

Predator Feed (Great photo ops as they feed the animals over 800lbs of meat)

What to Expect

The first hour will be spent shooting from a moving vehicle as we drive around in a habitat with the animals. They will stop the vehicle for good shooting ops. A 70-200mm will probably be

ideal on the Serengeti tour.

The predator photography will all have to happen from the photo platforms. Arizona law prohibits them from allowing us in with any of the cats even relatively safe cats like Servals so unless Bruce Taubert can pull some strings over at Game & Fish, we'll have to shoot from the platforms. The good news is that we will have two handlers working with treats to try and get the animals into good posing positions. No guarantees because an 800lb Lion pretty much does what he wants (see attached image I took there a few years ago) but at least they won't be sleeping or hiding.

We will all be on viewing platforms shooting and will have to work crammed together in limited spaces. Bring your long lenses...Again, we will NOT be allowed in the habitat with the predators but you can get good shots with telephotos....300mm-500mm is ideal.

The park is 104 acres so expect a lot of walking. Also bring warm clothes in layers as it will be cold in the morning and late afternoon in December at 3,500 feet

Group Size

Because of the limited size of the vehicle and the shooting platforms, this trip is limited to 20 participants.

Cost

\$50 per person plus entrance fee of \$36. The \$50 covers the 1 hour private Serengeti tour and 2 hours of handlers in various predator habitats trying to get the animals into good positions for us at our direction. Caveat: They charge by the hour NOT by the person. If we fill all 20 spaces, the cost will be \$45 per person and I'll give everyone \$5 back the day of the tour. Likewise if we only have 15 people sign up (highly unlikely), the cost per person will go up.

Sign Up Process

As we've done in the past, the first 20 people to reserve a space by responding to this email and send me \$50 will get a space.

Please send a check made out to Out of Africa NOT PCC:

Mark Laverman
19645 N. 14th PL
Phoenix, AZ 85024

Web site:

<http://www.outofafricapark.com/index.html>

Thanks, Mark, Pete and Ron