

## South Sudan tribal tour

13 DAYS (12 nights) tour to Eastern Equatoria to visit the Jiye (Jie), Toposa, Larim and then the Mundari cattle camps (Terekeka)

**25 January – 6 February 2027**



Our photo tours focus on taking you to places which have unique appeal to photographers. We seek the beauty of landscape and seascape, the heritage of cultural diversity and the bustle of streets and marketplaces – effectively photography through geography.

We also strive to promote eco photo tourism where we have a sustainable, un-intrusive, approach to our photography. We strive to seek the best moments, light and opportunities to compose shots which reflect upon those inimitable moments.

There is also great value in the immersion in local customs and culture, making the journey and photography more meaningful. It is recommended that participants bring a laptop or tablet to enable us to review the images or get help with editing if wished.

We welcome participants, whatever their photographic experience, as well as partners or family members who simply would like to join in the journey!

*'It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see'.  
Henry David Thoreau*



Alternative  
Visions

Photo tours

Our mission



### [South Sudan tribes](#)

The areas we visit are in Eastern and Central Equatoria where there is the greatest concentration of indigenous people.

### The photography

With tribal peoples, photography is different – a very good local guide is necessary and we use the best. We are sensitive to the impacts that tourism can cause, aiming to make visits sustainable and a positive cultural interaction. It is all a delicate balance, and the local guides are often best in deciding which strategy to adopt.

In some cases when we camp in, or close to, their villages. We wander around the village without a camera just to become a familiar sight. It is interpersonal skills, which make the moment count. And in that moment, we want to capture light, colour, emotion, insight, character and spirit. We try to shoot in the golden hours or at least where there is shade from the intense African sun. In the right light, at the right time, the ordinary becomes extraordinary – bringing incredible opportunities for portraits of tribal life and street markets. Some of the tribes we may encounter are Jiye/Jie, Toposa, Larim/Boya and Mundari.

### The travel

Villages are sometimes remote and this is what makes the photography rewarding. We travel in comfortable 4x4s (Toyota land cruisers or similar) to get to some of the very best locations. There is always a plan B if plan A has to be abandoned due to the occasional downpour, for example, making unsurfaced tracks impassable. It is also possible that we change the itinerary spontaneously if we hear of a local festival or celebration.

You do need a sense of adventure for this trip, but I will help with good preparation and packing advice. There are a few essentials, such as a **good first aid kit with Malaria prophylaxis**, but I will send out a list well in advance. We will be off the beaten track but will not be doing any arduous treks but will walk short distances to and around some of the villages.

I first travelled to South Sudan and the tribes in 2019 so I know the country well and love it. In the last few years I have returned seven times to capture those moments unique to the South Sudan.

## **Proposed itinerary**

The order in which we do the itinerary may change depending on movement of the Mundari

### **Day 1, Monday 25 January 2027, Arrival in Juba**

You will provide us with your flight details so that we can take note of your arrival and departure dates and times. You will arrive at Juba International Airport, in the capital of the world's youngest nation, South Sudan. One or more guides will meet you at the Airport and transfer you to your hotel. Group meeting with tour overview, Q&A session at 5.30/6pm.

Dinner at Da Vinci Lodge or Afex Lodge where you will have a view of the White Nile. All food and drinks at hotels and restaurants in Juba are not included. No cameras to be used in Juba, smartphones can be used with utmost caution.

### **Overnight at Pyramid Hotel**

### **Days 2 - 5, Tuesday 26 January – Friday 29 January 2027- 3 nights:**

Flight from Juba to Kapoeta and drive to the Jiye/Jie villages beyond Mogos.

Please do not be surprised if flight times change, planes may change and the roads are dirt tracks.

The Jiye/Toposa are ethnic groups living in the Kathangor in Eastern Equatoria state. They speak a dialect of the Toposa/Jiye language. We will spend mornings and evenings with the Jiye, Camping close to their villages. The Jiye are welcoming and have wonderful villages with beautifully constructed houses, stilted granaries and their compounds are clean. The women are adorned with beaded skirts and collars of beads around their necks and sometimes on their heads. Their faces are frequently scarified with small keloidal bumps.

We contribute salt, vegetable oil, tobacco and spices as a gesture of goodwill (please remember to bring extra cash to help contribute to 'gifts') which is much more sustainable than paying individuals for images. Bars of plain soap are great gifts.

### **Camping overnight.**

### **Day 5, Friday 29 January 2027**

Drive from Jiye/Toposa to Kapoeta

### **Overnight at Kuleu Resort in Kapoeta (Basic hotel)**

### **Days 6-7 Saturday and Sunday 30 January - 1 February 2027 (2 nights)**

Drive to the Laarim (Boya) villages at Kimatong (3 hours). Morning and evening photo shoots with the Laarim. We camp at the foot of the Kimatong hills. These granite exfoliation domes are remnants of ancient intrusive igneous activity. The Boya or Laarim tribe are found in beautiful villages clustered at the foot of these hills. We go to their villages (Kerenge) at dawn and the people are wonderful. Friendly and willing to have their photographs taken. The girls are quite extensively scarified (keloidal scarring). They cut themselves with razor blades and then use plant resin. This is common amongst many of the tribes in the Ilemi triangle (Omo valley, Ethiopia, Turkana, Kenya and Eastern Equatoria, South Sudan). They are also adorned with wonderful beading, nose and ear piercings. The girls are often bare breasted but may have a sheet/shawl covering one breast. We watch them grinding sorghum into flour using granite stones in hollows (grinding pits) hewn by hand over time. Their huts are beautiful with layered thatch, a small doorway and a roof which has a distinctive pinnacle which may not always point directly skywards.

## **Day 8, Monday 1 February 2027**

After a dawn shoot with the Larim we pack up and drive to Juba.

**Please have enough batteries with you although there will be a small generator supplied. You can bring larger charging packs or invertors to use in the vehicles but it is truly best to have enough batteries. Phones can be more easily charged with smaller chargers or in the vehicles. Sim cards are available in Juba and we can now use eSims (Nomad works) but a network is only available in some areas.**

## **Overnight at Pyramid Hotel**

## **Days 9 -12, Tuesday 2 - Friday 5 February 2027**

Drive from Juba to the Mundari cattle camps at Terekeka or wherever they are located. I have never been to the same camp twice! Dawn and dusk photoshoots and walks around the cattle camp to how the Mundari wake up with their Ankole Watusi cattle. The cattle camp, seldom visited by outsiders, is quite simply incredible. I saw Sebastiao Salgado's photo of these camps years ago and there is no change that I could see. The Mundari are friendly and enjoy being photographed. The dust and smoke intermingle to create an inimitable atmosphere. We arrive in the late afternoon when the light was soft and warm with long shadows. The tribe have all their wealth in their cattle and there are hundreds of them.

## **Overnight camping close to the cattle camp**

## **Day 12, Friday 5 February 2027**

After a dawn shoot with the Mundari we return to Juba.

Dinner at Afex or similar on the Nile. (All food drinks at the hotels/restaurants are not included).

## **Overnight at Pyramid hotel**

## **Day 13, Saturday 6 February 2027 Returning home and end of Photo Tour**

Breakfast and transfer to the airport. If returning via Addis on ET try to book the morning flight. Bidding each other goodbye.

### **Services included**

- Meals – breakfast, some lunches and dinners are not included (those at hotels and restaurants in Juba)
- Transfer to and from Juba International Airport at the start of the tour at the end of the tour.
- Internal flight to Kapoeta
- Photo tour leader
- All transport using 4x4 vehicles
- **The cost of the tour is €7150**
- **The single room supplement is €350**
- **To confirm the booking a deposit of €2000 is required.**

### **Services not included/additional costs**

Alcohol and occasional stops for coffee/tea/snacks

Meals in Juba at hotel and restaurants

Tips for guides and drivers (recommended €30 per guide/driver per day – divided amongst the group)

We have to make a contribution to the villages and camps for medicines – please bring about €300/400 per person for this.

The e-visa (you apply for your visa in advance with a copy of your passport and a proper digital passport photo, together with letter of invitation etc). Details of what is needed are issued well in advance.

You will need your yellow fever certificate.

