

# Wonderful AFRICAN PARKS



## THE BOOK

Gianni Maitan, accompanied by his wife Marialuisa Tramontan, has travelled throughout Africa for over 15 years and has had the chance of visiting the most fascinating natural reserves and parks of the African continent. His great passion for wildlife photography has taken him to explore the most amazing wilderness areas: from Kenya to Tanzania, from Malawi to Zambia, from Zimbabwe to Botswana, from South Africa to Namibia. This book is an enticing journey through nine African countries and twenty-two preserves, some of them hardly reachable, or little known, and rarely published. Thanks to the outstanding quality of its photographs, along with comprehensive descriptions, both in Italian and in English, (featuring also detailed maps that precisely locate the parks of the various countries), this volume is an exceptional means to appreciate the almost unspoilt world of the African continent and its magical and timeless beauty.

## THE AUTHOR

GIANNI MAITAN, engineering graduate and entrepreneur, has devoted himself to wildlife photography for many years. His passion has given him the opportunity to visit enchanting and far away lands, in search of stunning images of wild animals in their natural environments. His pictures have been published in several books and magazines and have been displayed in many personal and collective photographic exhibitions in Italy and abroad. In December 2004 Editoriale Giorgio Mondadori published his first photographic book "African Parks". He has co-authored the "Travel Guide: Kenya" published by Polaris in October 2005. Gianni Maitan has been awarded many first prizes in prestigious, national and international photographic competitions. Together with the Italian Team of Wildlife Photography, since 1999 he has won 6 world cups and 2 gold medal in the world championships "Nature Biennial FIAP".

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Text: Approx: 20.000 words – General introduction, single introduction to chapters (countries and parks), small captions for pictures.

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*Wonderful African Parks*, the new book by Gianni Maitan, the photographer who for years has been tirelessly travelling throughout the African continent, is not the usual nature photography book about Africa, but a wonderful journey through countries and parks almost unknown to the general public. A passion that pushed him to the most remote corners of the continent, leading him to explore areas and places of the planet still miraculously unspoilt. So the book does not only guide us through the green glades of the Masai Mara in Kenya, as always spectacular and breathtaking, already published in many photographic books or immortalised on television by beautiful documentaries, but also takes us to unknown and inaccessible places, like the Bwindi National Park in Uganda, where one of the last communities of Mountain Gorillas on the planet lives. The place where they live is one of the most mysterious and fascinating sites where to this day you can still feel that unique primeval sensation that only Africa can transmit: a rainforest where an exceptional biodiversity survives, that was not without reason declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1994.

The original, primitive, I might even say "violent" impact with nature that only Africa can offer provides the *fil rouge* that runs throughout the volume, where we range from the waters of the lakes Bogoria, Nakuru and Manyara, dotted with pink flamingos, pelicans and eagles, almost a mirage in the parched African continent, to the deserts of Namibia, an unreal and almost metaphysical scenario that Gianni captures in his sensitive shots in all its harsh and essential geometry.

Through a series of easy-to-read maps, that clearly represent the countries and places visited, the volume allows us to explore, in a kind of virtual trip, the most important and spectacular African nature parks. Like a sort of high level "guide", always accompanied by precise and informed texts by Marialuisa Tramontan, the volume points out the essential aspects of each park, the ideal season for visiting them as well as the characteristics that make them unique and worth a visit.

Through a series of photographs with a great visual and emotional impact, sometimes quite amazing in their technical perfection, Gianni enables us to savour, even just for a moment, the beauty, harmony and grandeur of a unique continent which, more than any other, is still surrounded by the aura of a myth beyond our reach.... in a time dominated by technology, progress and money, Africa is acquiring more and more the air of a beautiful distant dream...