

# PCQC Video Presentation

Fundamentals of Travel Photography by Bob Krist—National Geographic

## Lesson 15: Capturing the Spirit of Wildlife

There are certain parts of the world where wildlife plays a primary role in photography, for example: Africa, Alaska and the Galapagos. This lesson will provide tips and techniques for excellent wildlife photographs

- **Positioning and Gear**

- Be at the right place at the right time: go to a place with an abundance of wildlife. A great place to get some experience is the local zoo
- A key to wildlife photography, like sports events, is a telephoto lens
  - Bridge cameras fill in the gap between full sized DSLRs and digital mirrorless cameras (both with large heavy and expensive lenses), and compact point and shoot cameras with limited capabilities. Many bridge cameras have excellent built in telephoto lenses: Raw image quality is close to that of more expensive DSLRs and mirrorless cameras with expensive lenses. They are convenient to use and can be stabilized with a beanbag

- **Animal Portraits**

- Headshots are a good starting point. Concentrate on your subjects' eyes for the best photos
- Other keys to good animal portraits are soft light and non-distracting background. An example is the Puffins in Alaska
- Another key is to capture catchlights in the subjects' eyes. Catchlights live the photo
- Examples include the Gorilla in Rwanda and the Impala in Tanzania

- **Using Flash**

- A shoe mounted flash can clean up shadows and add catchlights in the subjects' eyes. It can also freeze motion of a fast-moving subject. The example provided is the lemurs on an island off the African east coast
- A flash may be ideal for photographing small creatures in a sun blotched forest

- **Exercises**

- Visit your local zoo for headshots and behavior shots of animals. Be aware of lighting and backgrounds