



Mandai
**Night
Safari**

Discover Mandai

Night Photography E-Guide



In Partnership with

SONY

INTRODUCTION



Our new Masterbrand, **Mandai**, embodies our passion and commitment for a thriving, biodiverse planet. The new brand world is inspired by nature and the animals under our care, which continue to spark a sense of wonder among our guests. Our new tagline, 'Come to life', serves both as an invitation - to come closer to nature and experience the wonders of wildlife at Mandai Wildlife Reserve, and a call - to take action and protect the planet by making better choices every day.

As the sun sets, a mysterious side of Mandai awakens. Discover the elusive creatures of the night as they come out to play, through the eyes of local photographers! Join us as we discover Mandai and watch it Come to Life.

Night Safari provides a rare opportunity to observe the nocturnal lifestyle of animals in their full glory, under the charm of the night. However, taking pictures in low light conditions can prove to be a challenge - we've compiled some top tips from Sony's photographers and Sony's curated range of products for night photography, to ensure you get to bring home quality memories of your wild adventure at Night Safari.

Bring light to darkness

Picture better in the night with Sony's large sensor devices



XPERIA **PRO-I**



α 1



RX100 VII



ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHERS



Aristelle Siew
@7xwnie

A creative photographer who strives to create unique content visuals, Aristelle isn't

afraid to explore a diverse style of photography, allowing her to clinch the Grand Prize Winner Title of Sony's Alpha Creators 2.0 Photography Contest in 2019.

"The parks offer me a surreal experience with each visit – it allows me to unwind in the beauty of nature and the rare opportunity to document how the different animals interact within their ecosystems up close."

Hoong Qi Hao
@qhventures



Qi Hao is a photographer and filmmaker based in Singapore, who is passionate about unfolding meaningful stories through still and moving visuals. His awe-inspiring works span a range of genres, such as travel, street and cityscape photography.

"I spent much of my childhood at the parks and have really appreciated its evolution over the years. I love documenting the parks at present and look forward to what the future holds."



Dan Ng
@lifewithdan

Concept Artist, Photographer and Filmmaker. Dan is heavily inspired by the fantasy world - the imaginary, the what ifs, and the what it could be. When he is not sketching away, he goes out exploring the wilderness to capture stories of the great outdoors. Encapsulating moments beautifully through visuals, colours and emotions.

"Mandai parks are a great starting ground that allows you to step into the wild world of animals. Here you get to learn more about these sentient beings that we share our planet earth with, in close proximity."

Julian W.
@julian.wwildlife



Photographer. Explorer. Entrepreneur. Julian W. is a renowned photographer who has worked with both local and international organizations, including Animal Planet, Asian Geographic, Lonely Planet and many others.

"Coming to Mandai means homecoming. I've had a special connection with nature and wildlife since a young age and the parks always have a special therapeutic effect on me."



PHOTOGRAPHER'S TIPS & TRICKS



East Lodge



Naracoorte Cave



Naracoorte Cave



Hoong Qi Hao
Sony's Photographer

Insta-worthy Shots

- Lookout for interesting structures and lights. The Naracoorte Cave and its warm lights really stood out to me. I used the pillars and ceiling of the cave to form a frame and placed myself in front of a strong light to cast dramatic shadows on to the ground.
- When taking photos against bright backgrounds, expose for the brighter areas. This retains the information in the background, and creates a silhouette of your subject, giving a mysterious feel to the photo.
- Visiting alone? Make use of the built-in timer to get some self-portraits.
- Bring your camera to various heights - bottom up, eye level and top down. See what looks the best, then set up your tripod to get the shot.
- It's harder to see colours when it gets dark. Keep a look out for strong colours which make the photos look livelier.



Shot on:

XPERIA PRO-I

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PHOTOGRAPHER'S TIPS & TRICKS



Along Tram Route



East Lodge Trail

Keeper's Tip: Keeper's Chit-Chat takes place at 8.30pm & 9.30pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Eve of Public Holidays.



Hoong Qi Hao
Sony's Photographer

Wildlife at Night

- Bring a tripod! Having a tripod would allow you to take photos with a slower shutter speed, enabling you to bring down your ISO to get cleaner and less grainy images.
- Try using a long exposure when a tram or any light source passes by, this will give you beautiful light trails.
- When using a slower shutter speed, use the 2 sec timer. This will make sure that the shake when you press the shutter button will not affect your photo.
- Use the telephoto lens to get closer to your subject. Try to perfect your composition when you are taking the shot so that you don't have to crop your photos, giving you the highest resolution possible.
- Anticipate the movement of the animals so that you are always ready to capture the perfect moment.

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XPERIA PRO-I

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Creatures of the Night Show



PHOTOGRAPHER'S TIPS & TRICKS



 Naracoorte Cave



Aristelle Siew
Sony Photographer

Landscapes

- To capture leading lines, frame your camera towards your subject sideways. This will add depth and make the scene more three dimensional.
- Make use of surrounding elements such as raindrops on the windowpanes to give an interesting or moody vibe to your photos.
- Frame both your subject and its surroundings to achieve a first-person point-of-view in your shots.
- To capture a moving subject in low-light conditions, use a lower aperture to compensate for a higher shutter-speed.
- Use a tripod to achieve less grainy or blurred images in low-light conditions and enable you to focus on the important things like composition.

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RX100 VII

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 Tram Station



 On Tram



PHOTOGRAPHER'S TIPS & TRICKS



Leopard Trail



Creatures of the Night Show



Creatures of the Night Show



Aristelle Siew

Sony's Photographer

Wildlife at Night

- Turn on the Real-time Eye AF for Animals to detect your subject's eyes to ensure it's always in focus. This will give you room to focus on your composition.
- Change your drive mode to continuous shooting to capture your subject even when they're in motion.
- Use the viewfinder to track a moving subject – This will enable you to maintain better control of your camera and respond to movements quickly.
- Avoid photographing your subject against a cluttered background as it will distract and draw attention away from your subject.
- To achieve the best mid-motion shots, frame your main subject with their surroundings and predict their next move.

Shot on:



RX100 VII

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ISO



PHOTOGRAPHER'S TIPS & TRICKS



Dan Ng
Sony's Photographer

Foreground Elements

- Look out for objects or things in the foreground to shoot through (e.g leaves or branches). This makes it feel like you are peering into the animal's environment.
- Move, move and move. Don't be afraid to move around your subject and use the surroundings to your advantage.
- Try different angles and explore ways to make your moment unique.
- Use spot focus or manual focus. It'll be much easier to focus on your subject through leaves.
- Shoot as if you've seen your subject a thousand times and with the idea that you're trying to tell a different story about it.

Shot on:



RX100 VII

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PHOTOGRAPHER'S TIPS & TRICKS



East Lodge Trail



Fishing Cat Trail



Wallaby Trail

Keeper's Tip: Keeper's Chit-Chat takes place daily at 9pm



Dan Ng
Sony's Photographer

Close-up

- Eye contact is the most important for close-up shots!
- Fill the frame with your subject creatively.
- Clarity is essential for close-up shots as everything will be seen in detail. Look out for good light - The most important thing that has to be clear is the eyes.
- When capturing close-up shots, think of the emotions and feelings of the moment that you are trying to convey.
- Be ready at all times! A moment could come and go in a blink of an eye.



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RX100 VII

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PHOTOGRAPHER'S TIPS & TRICKS



Julian W.
Sony's Alpha Photographer

ISO

Snapping Memories

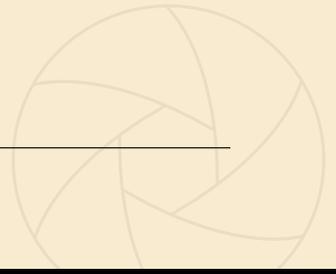
- Arrive early to sit among the first two rows of the Amphitheatre for better photo opportunities.
- Best zoom range to use will be between 70 to 200mm.
- Use a large aperture lens (e.g. Sony's FE 70-200mm F2.8 GM OSS II) for dim environment like at the Night Safari.
- When photographing experiences, a wider-angle lens will work best (e.g. Sony's FE 12-24mm F4 G).
- To photograph a full view e.g of the Naracoorte Cave, use an ultra-wide angle lens and tripod for best results.

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PHOTOGRAPHER'S TIPS & TRICKS



Fishing Cat Trail

Keeper's Tip: Fishing cats are most active from 7pm to 9pm



Creatures of the Night Show

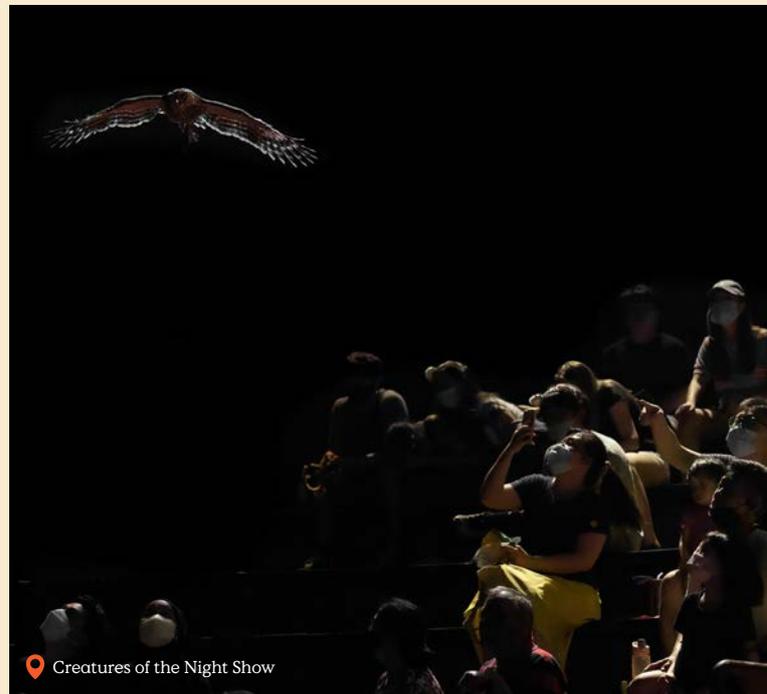


Julian W.

Sony's Alpha Photographer

Wildlife in Motion

- A Full-frame sensor camera (e.g. Sony's Alpha 1, Alpha 9, Alpha 7 Series) will be highly recommended for best results.
- Set 'Auto ISO' range of between ISO 100-25600 for your camera.
- A fast shutter speed (1/1250sec) is necessary to freeze the action.
- Determine and pre-focus on a spot and remember to set your camera drive mode on 'Continuous Shooting: Hi+/Hi', and take a burst of shots to choose the best one captured after.
- Shoot in RAW format. Post processing will help to reduce image noise, and to adjust the shots a little brighter for better clarity.



Creatures of the Night Show

Shot on:



α1

[Find Out More](#)



DO'S AND DON'TS

Do's

■ Do your research beforehand

To take an amazing photo, you need to know the animal you are shooting. Seek to understand the natural history and behavioural ecology of the animals you hope to photograph. The more familiar you are with your animal subject, the more likely you will achieve intimate pictures.

■ Do be patient and quiet

Be as quiet as possible, so that the animal you are observing or photographing can be seen by others. You will not be able to direct your animal subject and may take time to achieve the perfect shot. Learn to enjoy these moments with wildlife.

■ Do be considerate and courteous

Getting the perfect shot may be important but remember to take notice of your surroundings to ensure the safety of yourself and others at all times. Be considerate - when you have photographed the animal, move away to make room for others to view the animal as well.



Don'ts

■ Don't use flash

Using an artificial light source may confuse, distract or frighten the animals. Intensely bright flashes can cause the wildlife to experience great discomfort and pain and may even cause irreversible eye damage.

■ Don't disturb the wildlife and environment.

Ensure that your photography does not disturb the wildlife and environment, be aware of your surroundings even when shooting. Do not upset or tease animals to invoke a reaction to get a photograph - it may distract, alarm or frighten wildlife, and cause them to move away from view.

■ Don't give up!

Lastly, don't give up! It may take some time to get that perfect shot, but it will be worth it. Relish the unpredictability of wildlife.



Keeper's Tip: Consider coming earlier (7pm-7.30pm) when there is still some light out and on off-peak days to beat the crowds!