TAKING PICTURES AND..... SAFELY

Info: https://greengroupsimonstown.org/

Baboons are such fascinating animals! Here are some tips for taking excellent photos of them. Most importantly, these tips will ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for both you and the baboons.

- Don`t carry any food on you. Refrain from feeding or baiting the baboons, **as this is illegal.**
- Maintain a safe distance: keep a minimum distance of at least 10 meters to avoid stressing the baboons. Move slowly and gently.
- Don`t crowd and try to be alone near the baboons. Too many people around them can make baboons nervous and unpredictable.
- Don`t call the baboons to get them to look at you. It won`t work.
- Stay calm and quiet. Don`t rush. Baboons will relax if they see you are not a threat. They will start behaving normally, which is what you want.
- Avoid eye contact. Looking a baboon in the eye can be perceived as **a challenge or threat**.
- Do not corner or crowd any of them, particularly juveniles, this will **make parents protective**.
- Respect their space. If baboons appear stressed or aggressive, it's **best to leave them alone** and give them space.
- Read the Green Group Guideline on Baboon body language to interpret what is happening in the troop dynamics.

Composition of the images you want to take

- Get low. Shooting from a low angle can help create a more intimate and dynamic composition.
- Incorporate the baboons' natural environment into your composition to add context and interest.
- Focus on behaviour. Capture interesting behaviours, such as foraging, grooming, or social interactions.
- Soft, golden light during the early morning or late afternoon **can add warmth** and depth to your photos.

Perfect shot with your camera

- Use a telephoto lens (at least 200mm) for **capturing baboons** without disturbing them.
- Choose a wide aperture (low f-stop number). This will **help separate** the baboons from the **background.**
- A fast shutter speed (at least 1/1000th of a second) will help **freeze** the action.
- Keep the ISO as low as **possible (preferably 400 or lower)** to minimize noise.