



**A**ustralia has around 500 national parks. That accounts for over 28 million hectares of raw, mostly untamed wilderness. That's a lot of ground to cover, particularly if you're hoping to find the best photo locations and you only have a few weeks leave in which to do it! Here's a shortcut for you. We tracked down 11 very talented pro photographers and asked them to name their favourite places to visit with a camera. We also asked them how they go about creating their amazing images. Now, that should save you some time – and help you get some fantastic images next time you head out into the great outdoors!



**Steve Parish**

Steve Parish is an iconic Australian nature and landscape photographer who publishes photography books and runs workshops. Parish's favourite wilderness area is NT's Kakadu National Park ([parksaustralia.gov.au](http://parksaustralia.gov.au)), which he has visited every two to three years since 1976. Parish says what makes Kakadu so special is its seasonality, the abundance of wildlife and the diversity of its ecosystems. Kakadu has the largest

number of macropod (kangaroos and wallaby) species in any one place in Australia and it also features enormous bird and reptile diversity.

Parish says the indigenous cultural connection also makes this area very special for him. "The range of natural features within Kakadu makes it a spectacularly exciting region to behold and photograph. The major geological feature is the Arnhem Land Plateau – an ancient sandstone formation which takes up about a third of Arnhem Land. This imposing plateau and escarpment is part of the "stone country" and it is here, on the eastern side of the park, that Kakadu's most unusual plant and animal life can be found."

**Steve Parish's Top Tips**

1. Use a tripod as much as you can.
2. Mentally get out of your technological head space and into the creative heart-space where your true creative spirit lives.
3. Make many exposures around a theme and play with focus and composition.
4. Vary your viewpoint to suit the angle of the sun's rays, searching for form, texture and shape clarification. – [steveparish.com.au](http://steveparish.com.au)



**Richard l'Anson**

Over the last 30 years Richard l'Anson's photos have appeared in numerous publications including Lonely Planet travel guides. Richard's favourite wilderness area is Northern Australia, from the Kimberley in Western Australia to Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.

"It's a huge area and it offers an incredibly wide variety of travel experiences and subject matter with its remarkable landscapes, wildlife, indigenous culture and rock art," says l'Anson. "The area has a wonderful range of natural features including dramatic rock formations and escarpments like the Bungle Bungles, Hidden Valley, Keep River and Arnhem Land; gorges like Galvans, Lennard River and Geikie, waterfalls like Jim Jim Falls and Twin Falls and wetlands such as Bamurru and Kakadu."

**Richard l'Anson's Top Tips**

1. Take control of the picture-taking process by learning the technical stuff so you can take your camera off the automatic settings.
2. Consider your subject – what is it and why are you taking a photo of it? Successful images have a point of interest: the key

- element around which the composition is based and which draws and holds the viewer's attention.
3. Don't assume that your eye level or the first place from where you see your subject is the best viewpoint. A few steps left or right, going down on one knee or moving to higher ground or even just standing on a rock can make a lot of difference.
  4. Don't put your camera away when it's raining or threatening to rain. Unsettled or unusual weather often brings with it moments of spectacular light.
  5. Learn to see the transformative power of light and its ability to change a landscape from the ordinary to the extraordinary. This is one of the most powerful tools at the photographer's disposal. – [richardianson.com/slide-shows/australia-bamurru-plains-photographic-safari/](http://richardianson.com/slide-shows/australia-bamurru-plains-photographic-safari/)

*Wild Bush Luxury runs Bamurru Plains, a luxury lodge that allows photographers and nature lovers the chance to get up close and personal with this stunning landscape and its flora and fauna. The lodge features 10 safari bungalows and plenty of excursions including 4WD and river boat trips and a wealth of wildlife viewing options. For more info on Bamurru Plains visit [www.wildbushluxury.com](http://www.wildbushluxury.com)*

**ABOVE**  
Sunrise from Etheridge Ridge, Kosciuszko NP. Nikon D700, 20mm f/2.8 lens, 1/25s @ f/11, ISO 500, hand held. Photo by Mike Edmondson.

**OPPOSITE**  
Shooting wetlands on private property at Bamurru Plains, Top End Northern Territory. Canon 1Dx, EF 70-200mm f2.8 lens, 1/400s @ f16, ISO 400. Photo by Richard l'Anson.