

**Digital Camera Equipment**  
**By Jim Nelson**

**Users – Remember that digital cameras increase the focal properties of a lens. Get the fastest lenses you can afford. Stabilized lenses are fantastic. Read the manuals & practice – KNOW YOUR CAMERA & EQUIPMENT.**

**All the lodges & tent camps had very stable generators for electrical power. There were at least 1-2+ receptacles in each accommodation. There was no problems with electrical use. You will need an adaptor plug & possibly a converter.**

**Casual - Point & Shoot camera, plus enough memory cards or backup for the entire trip. 30-40 images / day.**

**Moderate – Digital SLR camera (with pop up flash) + a Point & Shoot backup camera, plus compatible media. A semi wide angle – telephoto zoom lens (28mm-300mm), possible 2X or 1.4X converter, lens hood. 100 images / day.**

**Serious – 2 Digital SLR cameras, 1 wide angle lens, 1 telephoto Lens (300 mm +), 1.4X or 2x converter, lens hoods, Dedicated flash, possible “\*Better Beamer” flash extender. 200-300 + images / day.**

**1.) General information**

**Extra Batteries – camera, flash, portable storage devices  
Numerous AA or compatible batteries to last for the entire trip.**

**OR**

**Rechargeable Batteries that are compatible.**

**Battery Charger(s) – Check that the charger is 120v.-250v AC. If it is, then no converter is required.**

**Converter – An electrical converter is needed if your charger or equipment is 120v. AC ONLY.**

**\*Surge protector – There is one available from Radio Shack that has 3 built on adapter plugs (including Kenya/Tanzania).**

**2.) Extra Memory Cards**

**Decide on quality of resolution that you plan to use and know how many images will fit on a card. Normally, the megapixel of the camera is approximately equal to what each image (file) will be in “RAW” format, which is the highest quality.**

**3.) Backup – Check for dual voltage (120v-250v AC.)**

**Enough memory cards for all the photos from the entire trip.**

**OR**

**Laptop computer +charger/power supply**

**Best viewing & it allows you to work with images, but heavy,**

**bulky, fragile, & dust magnet (It will be dusty).**

**\*Delkin CardBus 32 Adapter PCMCIA card reader  
(Compact flash only)**

**\*Downloader Pro software (Windows only)**

**Photo management software for storage, slideshows,  
manipulation.**

**Have two ways to download images into the computer, in  
case one fails.**

**\*CD burner + charger/power supply - 700 mb/CD**

**You could burn 3+ CD's /day. CD-R is a more stable  
platform than CD-RW.**

**Test burn CD's before traveling to make sure that the unit  
Works properly and that the CD's are compatible  
with the burner as well as a desktop or laptop. Test  
them to both write and read.**

**Disk spanning – This is a good feature that allows you to  
download a card that is larger than a CD (700 mb).**

**Multi-session – This feature allows you to add more photos  
to a partially full CD at a later time.**

**Make sure that the burner accepts the type of memory card  
that you will be using.**

**\*Portable hard drives + charger/power supply**

**20 GB – 80 GB., depending on your projected need.**

**Screen viewing is a good feature.**

**Make sure that it will read the format (resolution)  
that you intend to use (CRW,CR2, NFC, etc)**

**Make sure that the drive will accept the type of memory  
card that you will be using.**

**Equipment suggestions**

**Camera(s) manuals**

**Backup equipment manuals**

**Tools needed to work on equipment (pack in checked baggage)**

**Blower**

**Soft brush**

**Lens cleaning solution**

Lens cloths  
Soft cloth for dusting  
Garbage bag – rain & dust  
Shower cap or smaller bag to cover camera or lens  
Lens & camera body caps  
Adequate number of CD-R's  
Guide books and/or notebook  
Support for roof of Land Cruiser – ALWAYS support lens barrel  
Bean bag  
\*Todd-Pod and \*Mongoose head  
Monopod – minimal use around grounds of lodges  
Tripod – not worth the effort  
Cases – Airline carry-on capable  
\*Porter Case  
\*LowePro backpack  
Names & serial numbers of equipment  
A customs form is available listing your photographic equipment to show that it was purchased before leaving the country, so no duty can be charged.

Keep your longest lens on your camera because any you will normally have time to change to a wide angle for scenic shots.

Change perspectives – shoot from roof & window

\*Equipment that has worked:

Surge protector – Radio Shack – Travel plug adapter-#273-1445

Delkin CardBus 32 Adapter PCMCIA card reader

(Compact flash only)

Downloader Pro - [www.breezesys.com](http://www.breezesys.com)

CD burner – Apacer CP200 combo - [www.apacer.com](http://www.apacer.com)

Portable hard drive – Smartdisk FlashTrax –

[www.smartdisk.com](http://www.smartdisk.com)

Todd-Pod – Safari Vehicle Roof Hatch Camera Support

Todd Gustafson – 847-298-8351

Mongoose Head - [www.4gdphoto.com](http://www.4gdphoto.com)

PorterCase - [www.portercase.com](http://www.portercase.com)

LowePro - [www.lowepro.com/pages/series/rolling/rolling.htm](http://www.lowepro.com/pages/series/rolling/rolling.htm)

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Metering:

**Giraffe – middle tone or grass**  
**Hippo – river bank, not wet Hippo**  
**Cheetah - spot meter on face or back**  
**Antelopes – middle tone**  
**Ostrich – female – middle tone**  
**male – spot meter neck or grass**  
**Elephants - dry spot on back**  
**Lions - head is middle tone (not dark mane)**  
**Rhino - lightest area on back or head**  
**Vultures - middle tone on crown of head**  
**Leopard - spot meter on face or overall middle tone**  
**Zebra - middle tone-average**  
**Baboons - meter back or lightest sunlight area**  
**Jackals - tawny or gray areas (not dark back)**  
**Hyena - Darker than middle tone –1 stop**  
**Buffalo - horns**  
**Warthogs – meter hide or grass**  
**Wildebeest –shoulder or rump**