

# WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER

**FANIMAL** ANIMAL CAREER PROFILES

## DESCRIPTION

As a wildlife photographer, you will have the opportunity to use your love for photography and nature to capture the biodiversity that surrounds us. Wildlife photographers can travel the world to capture unique moments of specific plants or animals, or go right out into their backyard to snap a picture of nature close to home. Patience and respect for nature is of vital importance for a wildlife photographer, as the shots depend on many things out of their immediate control such as weather, wildlife behavior, seasons, and more.

As a wildlife photographer, you will be knowledgeable about how different locations, angles, and lights allow you to cinematize something special and transcribe the beautiful moments you have experienced among the presence of wildlife. Photographers can choose to be affiliated to an organization, do freelance work, or sell their photographs to magazines or science journals. Some famous organizations that print wildlife photography to share with the public include National Geographic, Discover, National Wildlife, Smithsonian, and more.

## EDUCATION

The most important factor in a photography job is experience. Putting together a portfolio that showcases your skills and artistic abilities is the key to landing top notch jobs and publications. It is not mandatory to have a degree in photography or photojournalism, but this could increase your chances of getting hired. Schools that offer bachelor's degrees in photography include The New School in New York, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Maryland Institute College of Art, to name a few.

You can also pursue a career in photography with other degrees such as journalism, business, graphic designs, art, and the list could go on. The path of becoming a photographer will be unique for each person, but the most important thing to remember is that hands-on experience with your camera among wildlife will elad to success as a wildlife photographer.

## SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

**Computer Photography Software** - it is not uncommon for applications such as Photoshop and Lightroom to be used in this profession

**Artistic and Creative** - must have an eye for capturing interesting and enchanting images

**Wildlife Knowledge** - for your own safety and the safety of wildlife, you must be knowledgeable about the animals you are photographing

**Outdoor Survival Skills** - depending on the location of the shoot, a wildlife photographer may be stuck in one place for long periods of time, so knowing how to thrive in those environments is key

TYPICAL  
SALARY

**\$26K-  
\$42K**