

# WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS



by Ossi Saarinen,  
photographer of  
**HOW TO FIND  
A FOX**

**OSSI SAARINEN** is a wildlife photographer, which means he takes pictures of animals in nature where they live. He took all the pictures in *How to Find a Fox*, a book that celebrates the red fox. Here are some tips Ossi has for kids who would like to take wildlife photos of their own (with a trusted adult nearby, of course):



**A** “good” wildlife photo is one that makes you feel proud. It often tells a story or makes the person looking at it feel something.

**Y**ou don’t need expensive gear to get started. A phone camera can work. Start with the equipment you have and then decide later if there’s a need to upgrade it.

**T**he best times to take pictures are early mornings and late evenings when most animals are more active. During the brightest part of the day, you will likely find fewer types of animals. Also, the light is more beautiful and photogenic during the sunrise and sunset.

**W**hen you leave for a photoshoot, always pack a bottle of water and a snack. You might end up spending a longer time searching/waiting in nature than you planned.

**I**t helps if you have some knowledge about the animal species you’re trying to find and photograph. Learn about how they behave and where you can find them.



**Y**ou also need to learn how to carefully approach animals without scaring them away or putting your personal safety at risk. Sometimes it's better to stay back and let the animals approach you. Sometimes, if you get too close, the animals get scared and run or fly away. Not to worry! Learn from these mistakes and just be more careful next time.

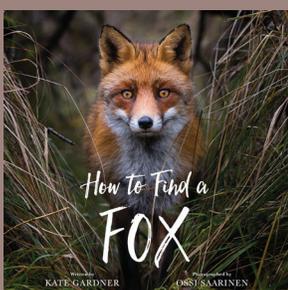
**A** wildlife photographer must be very patient—and prepared for disappointments. It can sometimes take days or weeks to find something interesting to photograph. Luckily, the good days make it all worth it.

**S**pend as much time in nature as possible. Take photos of everything you see. Day by day, you will get better at what you're doing.

**T**alk with other more experienced photographers who might have good tips for you.

**F**ind (or organize) a local group for young photographers. Photographing is more fun with other people and you can always learn something new from others.

**D**on't give up! Even if you feel like you are failing all the time, when you eventually get that perfect photo, it will be worth all the work.



Images from:  
**HOW TO FIND A FOX**  
by KATE GARDNER  
Photographed by OSSII SAARINEN



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