

ANCIENT ANNAPURNAS

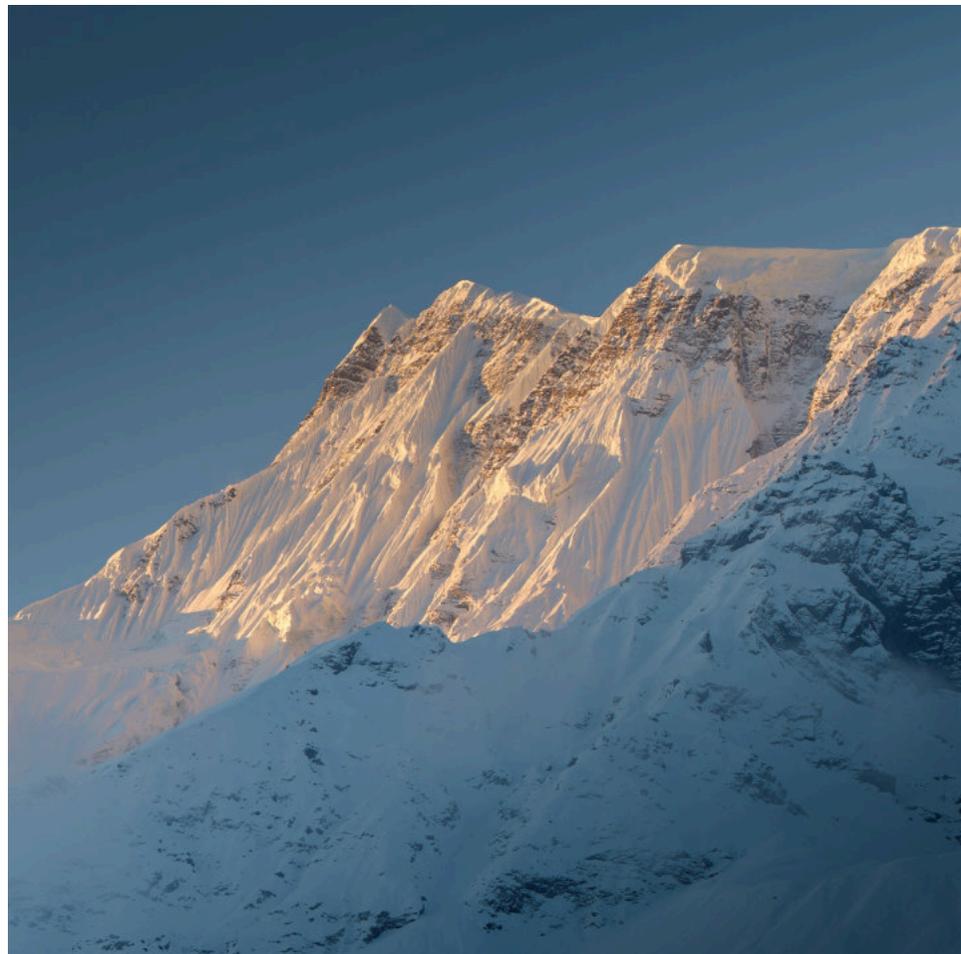
PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR EWEN BELL

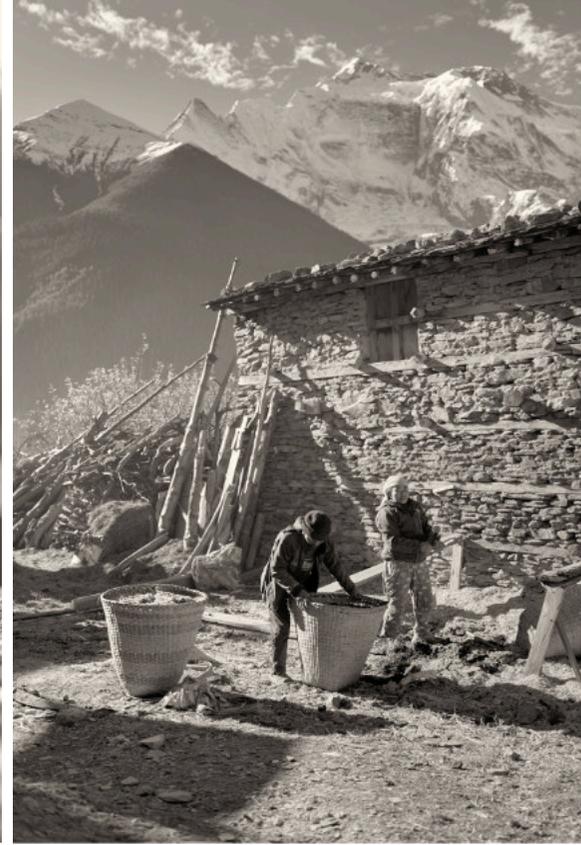
One of the most adventurous photography tours we've ever planned in the Himalayas. Follow the jeep trail deep into the Annapurnas to the ancient village of Manang, photograph some of the highest peaks in the world, and finish with a helicopter landing at Lake Tilicho.

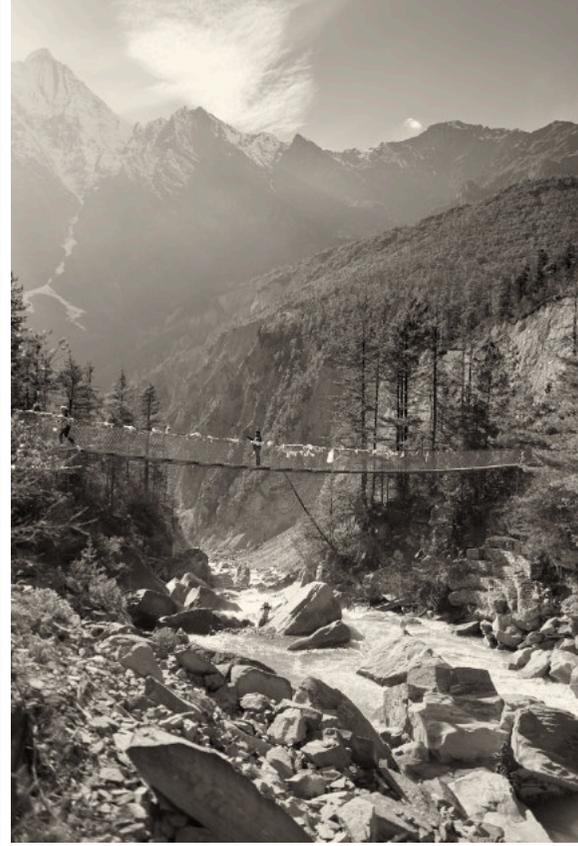
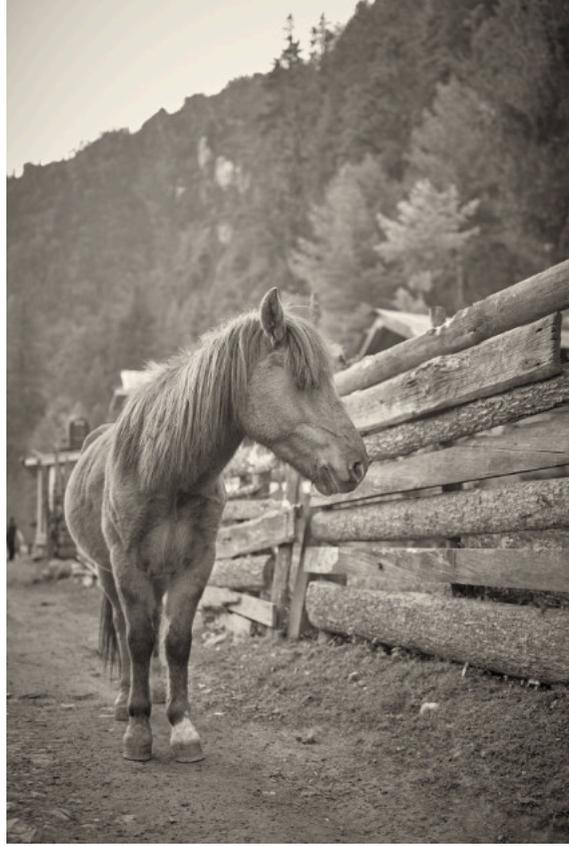
Highlights include stunning waterfalls, glacial rivers plus herds of goats and yaks.

November 2024

13 days from US\$11,880







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ANCIENT ANNAPURNAS

Day 1+2 | Kathmandu

Our meeting point is Kathmandu, where we get to meet each other and go over final details before heading west into the Annapurna Ranges. Airport transfers are included.

We have a full day together in Kathmandu to talk about photography and share a session on capturing light. We visit a couple of our favourite temples for dawn and dusk, when the light is doing lovely things. If you haven't been to Nepal before we recommend arriving a day or two early to acclimate to the culture and time zone.

Day 3 | Besisahar

Today is a big road trip to get out of Kathmandu Valley. There's a lovely hotel waiting for us at the other end though – our last chance for a little pampering before hitting the jeep trail. En route we'll visit one of our favourite truck stops for some local style Nepali cuisine.

Day 4 | Nache (2000m)

This is our first day of slow driving as we climb higher into the mountains. We make plenty of stops for photography however, with some iconic scenes of Lamjung, rice fields and waterfalls. The route takes us from 500m to 2000m in elevation, but very slowly. We also visit a nice family along the way who happen to make some of the best coffee in Nepal!

Day 5 | Chame Bazaar (2700m)

The next section of trail is rich in broadleaf forests, wild rivers and steep mountain terrain. This is where we see some of the most stunning waterfalls in all of Nepal. We have plenty of time to capture them, or to stretch our legs by walking a few sections of the route where the trail isn't steep. We hope to arrive at our guesthouse before dark and make the most of the solar powered showers.

Day 6+7 | Upper Pisang (3200m)

There are some fascinating villages to photograph along the journey today, and some quirky apple farmers too. Several sections of the route are worth a short walk with the camera, with powerful rivers crossed by suspension bridges. After lunch we drive to the higher elevation of 3200m, and we take the rest of the afternoon nice and slow.

A full day in Pisang offers time to photograph village life, visit the gumpa or even head downhill to capture some smaller lakes. Our views of Annapurna II and III from the guesthouse are spectacular.

Day 8+9+10 | Manang (3700m)

The views just get better and better today. We drive through a high pass into the next section of the Annapurnas where Gangapurna and Tilicho come into view. The drive is full of inspiration with some amazing sections of river and Annapurnas to capture with slow shutters.

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After lunch we arrive in Manang itself and get settled into our accommodation. It's a modest sized town but surrounded by fields, livestock, and mountains. For the next few days our schedule will be to chase the first light at dawn, then breakfast, then a second shoot for late morning and finally lunch. After lunch we rest up, download and get some hot showers.

There are a few nearby villages for those who enjoy a little walking, but for those who want to conserve their energy we have some gorgeous scenes to capture each morning.

Day 11+12 | Kathmandu

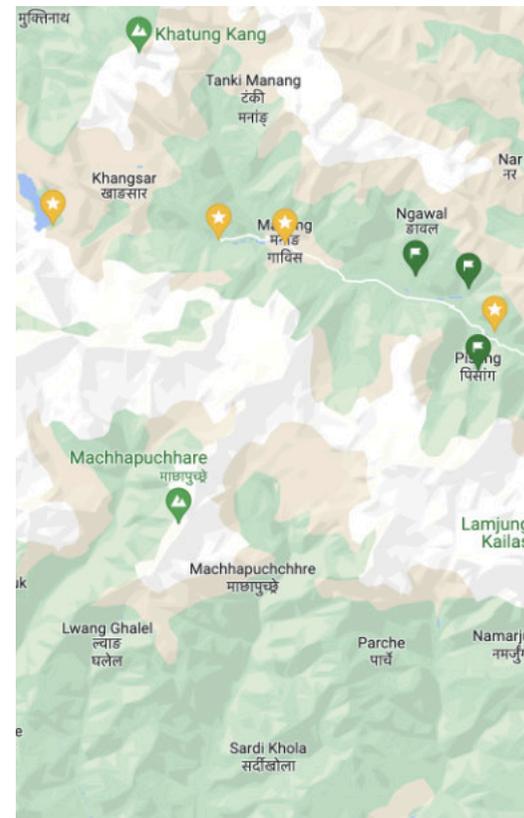
A big day today. An early start to get going with the helicopters and make the most of our visit to Lake Tilicho. Everyone will get around 30 minutes on the ground by the lake, plus the amazing views of the nearby peaks as you fly in and out. This will be something special.

We gather back in Manang to load the helicopters with our essential luggage and fly direct to Kathmandu. Any excess weight will go back by road with our jeep drivers.

We have a full day in Kathmandu at the end of the trip, which allows for any weather delays for our helicopter flight and gives time for our excess luggage to rejoin us in town. For this extra day we enjoy a photo shoot at the morning market and a visit to Pashupatinath, one of the most sacred of Hindi sites in Nepal.

Day 13 | Departure

Checkout time for the hotel will be 12noon. Regardless of your departing flight time, we will ensure you have a private transfer to the airport.



ITINERARY

ANCIENT ANNAPURNAS

1

Experience

We love coming back to Nepal. After more than a decade of exploring and capturing, it feels like home to us. Let us show you what makes Nepal is so special.

2

Adventure

Genuine adventure on the jeep trail to Manang and Lake Tilicho. A mix of basic accommodation, pampering by helicopter and one of the worst roads in all of Nepal!

3

Heli High

Included in the price is a short trip to Lake Tilicho by charter helicopter. We'll enjoy some quality time on the ground to photograph the location before flying back to Kathmandu.

4

Landscapes

We take the slow road from Kathmandu to Manang, leaving abundant time to stop and enjoy the stunning scenery of mountain peaks, glacial rivers and waterfalls.

5

Culture

From herding goats to milking the yaks, there's a lot more to photograph in this part of the Himalayas than just the snow capped mountains.

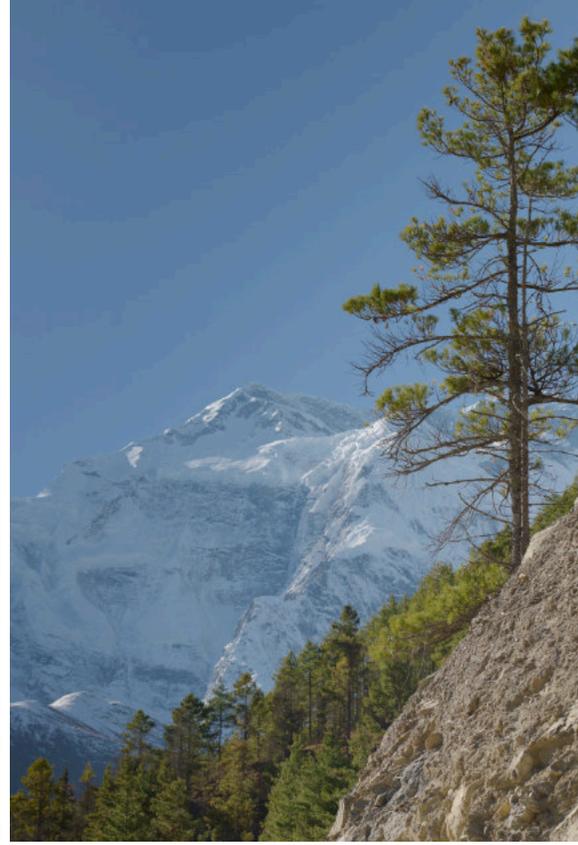
6

Photography

We want you to go home with some incredible photos and lots of good advice. We do our best to get you to the right places at the perfect time. Sharing is caring.





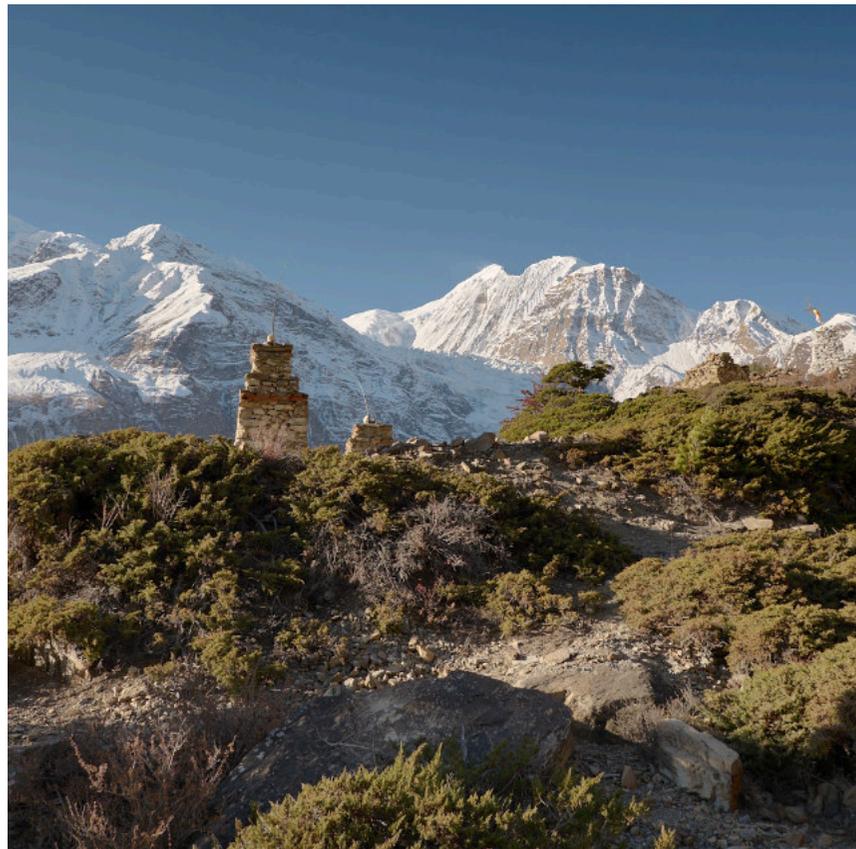


HIMALAYAS WITHOUT THE HIKES

This tour is for photographers, not trekkers. Walking is required to reach the higher temples, but the tour design is comfortable, achievable and carefully balanced to suit the needs of photographers who want to stop and enjoy their craft in the winter light.

A little walking is essential to find the best locations to photograph, but we don't do any overnight treks. The hardest walking will be around the village of Manang, which sits high above the valley floor. We'll have several days to adjust to the elevation on the way up, so there's no danger of altitude sickness. Just go slow and don't rush the journey.

In Nepal we say *Bistari Bistari*, or to travel “slowly slowly”. It's good advice.



TILICHO BY HELICOPTER

A stunning experience you'll never forget. Lake Tilicho is situated at an elevation of 4900m, making it one of the highest lakes in the world. It's typically surrounded by magnificent snow capped peaks, and in the month of November the snow fall can be right down to the lake shore.

We arrange charter helicopters to fly our group from Manang to Lake Tilicho, capturing the morning light. It's not an aerial shoot, and we don't do these flights "doors off". Instead we land by the water and ensure everyone gets roughly 30 minutes on the ground before heading back.

Our gradual schedule leading up to Lake Tilicho ensures everyone is sufficiently adjusted to the elevation so, you won't experience any problems during the lake visit.

"In a decade of travelling around Nepal, from Everest to Bardiya, I don't think I've ever seen a more beautiful landscape in Nepal."
– Ewen Bell











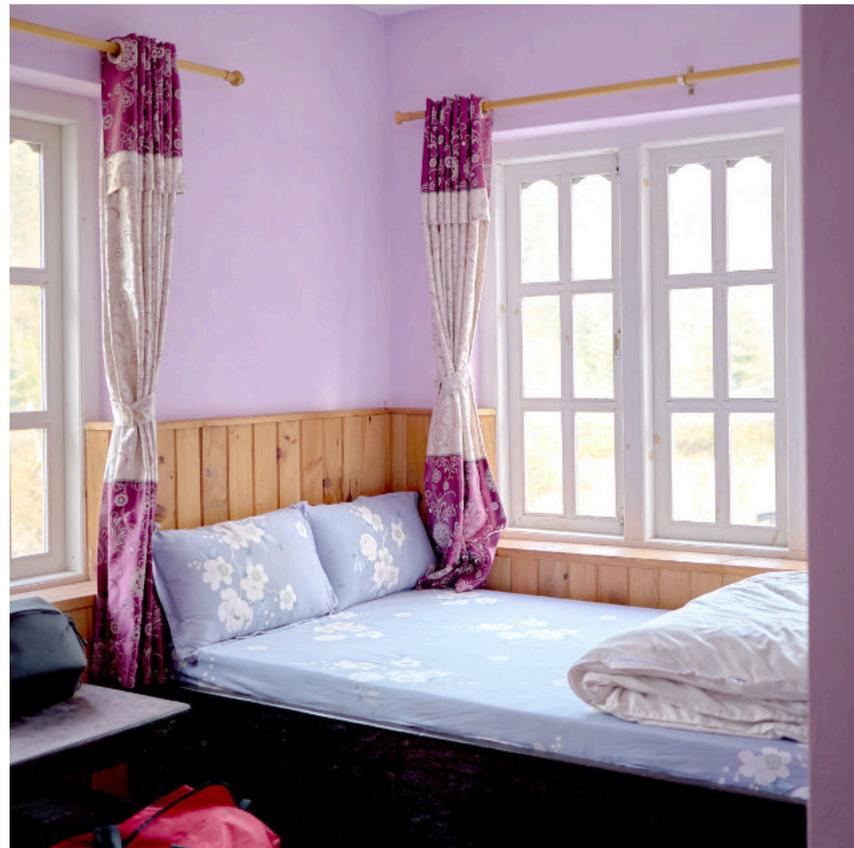


GUEST HOUSE LODGINGS

For much of this journey the accommodation is very basic. This part of Nepal caters almost exclusively to trekkers, but each year we see new and better lodges become available.

We like the smaller family run places, where we can stand around a hot stove and share a pot of tea. More often than not there is access to a hot shower, and we specify rooms with private ensuite at all times. Some are a little more fancy than others, but we always choose the best available in each location.

Of course there are never any guarantees when embarking on this level of adventure, but we do promise to do our best. Our ground team have worked with us in Nepal for over a decade now and they understand that a photo tour with Ewen is a mix of connecting with culture and finding the very best in comforts!



LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

We have a special relationship with our local guides. Tsering and her father Tenzing have worked in the Annapurnas and Sagarmatha regions for their entire careers, and they know these places through and through. They are experts on the culture and logistics.

After all these years working with our tours, they are also experts on what makes a photography tour different. They understand that being in the right place at the right time is critical. They go to great lengths to help our travellers connect with local customs and local residents. They appreciate our “go slow” attitude to travel and especially appreciate that some of us are not so keen to trek up to the top of a mountain if there’s an easier option!

We work well together. On this trip you can expect not only the expertise from Tsering and her family, but the benefits of three local guides in total to care for our entourage. You’ll always have assistance when you need it.









JEEP TRAIL TO MANANG

This is not a trek, but it's also not a luxury journey. It's very much an adventure. The jeep trail into Manang gets a little better every year, in some sections, but then gets a little worse every year in other sections. Landslides and waterfalls keep altering the trail.

We make sure there are only 3 passengers in each jeep to ensure plenty of room for camera gear and elbows. The jeeps we use are selected for functionality, not comfort, so getting there and back is the main objective. A regular 4WD can end up in pieces on this trail. We trust our local drivers to get us there safely, and slowly. As we like to say in Nepal, "Bistari Bistari" – Slowly slowly.

If you suffer from motion sickness then this trip is not for you. It's days upon days of rough and tumble trails, plus a thrilling helicopter jaunt at the very end of the journey.



WINTER LIGHT

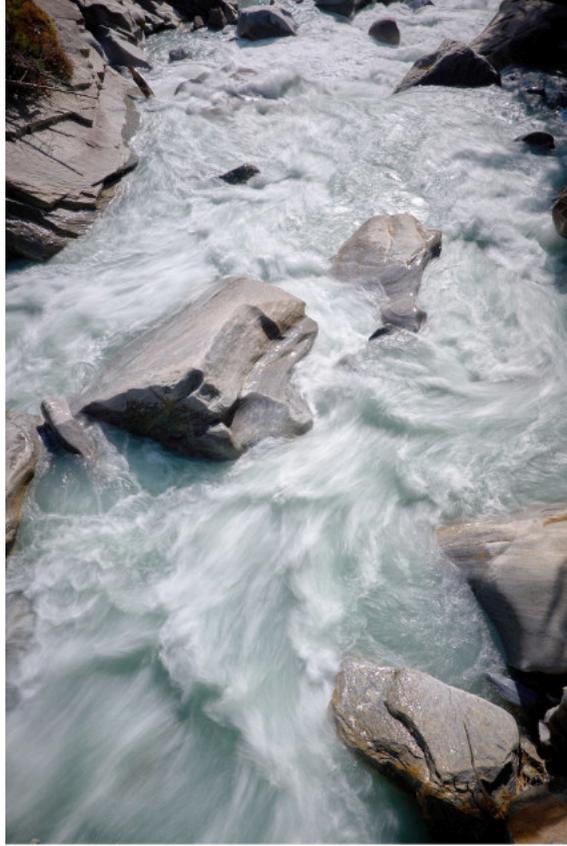
I really love the Himalayan winters. The angle of light in winter offers beautiful photographic moments all day long, not just at dawn and dusk. November is a special time of year in Nepal, following the end of the monsoon, with minimal humidity and tonnes of sunshine.

During the daytime it's very warm in the sun. Depending on the elevation, you may not need a jacket even. As we get higher up and closer to Manang the air gets cooler but the sun also gets hotter. Sunglasses are just as important as warm clothing.

Evenings can be very cool, even down to zero. We make sure we have plenty of warm bedding at all the guesthouses, and most often there is access to a hot shower as well. Keep in mind that this part of Nepal caters to trekkers in a budget, but we always use the best standard of accommodation available.









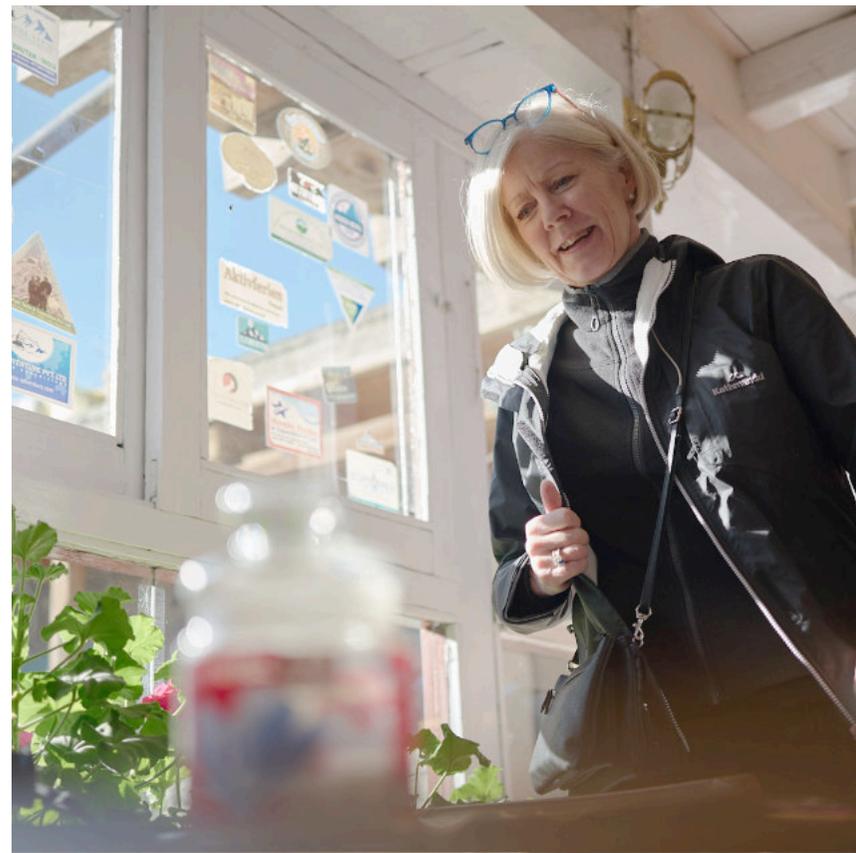


WHO TRAVELS WITH US?

Our photographic journeys appeal to both the young and old, the experienced and novice. Most tours are made up of people aged 25 to 65, and occasionally older or younger still. It doesn't matter what your skills and interest in photography are, you will enjoy sharing a creative and immersive experience with like minded people.

You can read feedback from past travellers, going back over a decade, on photography tours by visiting this link below...

ewenbell.com/feedback



CAMERA GEAR

Before the tour begins we'll discuss what gear you need to pack to make the most of this adventure. The right choice of lenses and a decent laptop will ensure you're fully prepared for some special moments.

Whatever camera you have, we can help you get the most of it. Ewen has been writing for photography magazines and reviewing cameras for over a decade now.

The emphasis for this trip is wide and ultra-wide angle, including some slow shutter moments with rivers and waterfalls. Tripods and ND filters are useful for those moments. Aside from the stunning scenery there will also be intimate moments with ethnic groups of the Himalayas. A fast 50mm or 35mm lens will be essential for editorial style photography as shown in this brochure.

All images in this brochure were taken in 2022 during our two-week exploratory tour.











PROFESSIONAL TUITION

Not only does this adventure deliver exceptional photographic opportunities, but you get two professional photographers included too.

Ewen Bell has been running photographic workshops and tours since 2005. His experience with the camera and teaching is matched only by his passion for creating bespoke photographic experiences.

Every detail of the craft is open to discussion. Ewen likes to emphasise the creative potential of photography without getting mired in the technical. They will push you to be in control of the camera, to make the images your own, but for the sake of creativity and expression.



ART & CREATIVITY

The camera is like a paintbrush, and in the hands of different people it will produce very different images.

Ewen Bell specialises in teaching people about the creative potential of photography, to go beyond the technical issues of a camera and start taking creative control. Expression is at the heart of great photography, sharing your perspective, your view, your experience.

Ewen is also the author of the book “ReIMAGINE - changing your photography by changing your perspective”

A few basic principles underpin the art of travel photography. Go Slow. Get Closer. Look for the Light. Find out for yourself how much inspiration can flow from three very simple ideas.









TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Start and Finish in Kathmandu
- Private Jeeps all the way through the Manang
- Helicopter landing at Lake Tilicho
- Extra local guides to assist you along the journey
- Professional photographic guide – Ewen Bell
- Local cuisine enroute and in the Annapurnas
- Rivers and waterfalls for slow shutter photography
- Walking through farming villages
- Winter light and sunny skies
- Yaks and goats in abundance
- Buddhist monasteries and monks
- Stunning views of Annapurna peaks
- Morning light in glacial valleys
- Our fave stops for coffee and cake!









MEET EWEN BELL

YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE

My name is Ewen Bell and I'm the guy who designs these tours so you can get great photos and experience a marvellous adventure. My work is published all over the world in travel brochures, the travel media and photography magazines including National Geographic in the USA and Food & Travel in the UK. My depth of experience with leading tours is impressive, with over 50 tours and workshops completed in recent decades across Asia, The Himalayas, Australia, Antarctica and Scandinavia.

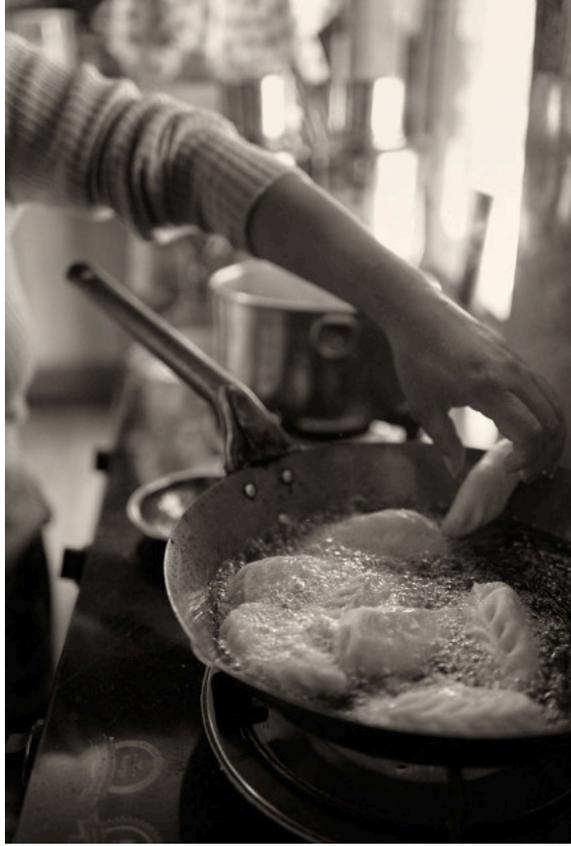
“In some ways this section of the Annapurnas is a wild frontier, like stepping back in time and taking a look at the Himalayas from many many decades ago. It's genuinely unique and I can't wait to share it with a lucky group of photographers.”

It's kind of weird talking about myself and “selling” myself to you here! But really, I do know a thing or two about photography and how to teach photography. Perhaps most importantly, I care about making sure YOU go home with great photos.

ewenbell.com









ALL INCLUSIVE

What We Include

All accommodation, meals, permits, tipping, drivers, jeeps and helicopter services. Tips for local guides are also covered, there is no extra to pay. The default for this tour is a single room, so there's no extra cost for having a room to yourself either.

Extra Cash?

There are no hidden extras and no sneaky "local payments". You won't need to pay for much while in Nepal, just your drinks and laundry are the biggest expenses. We recommend a local sim card for reliable internet access (\$25) and will help you get one before leaving Kathmandu.

We provide an information pack before the tour as well with information on applying for your visa online and other essential tips.



THE FINE PRINT

Dates

2024: November 4 - November 16

Price

US\$11,880pp

Single room inclusive

Group Size

Maximum of 8 people

Inclusions

The instructing photographers and local guides are included for this tour. Other inclusions include: All meals, accommodation and transfers in and around Nepal, helicopter services in the Annapurnas, all permits to the region and tipping of local guides.

Jeeps

Maximum of 3 passengers to a jeep so you have room for your camera gear and elbows.

Accommodation

A mix of city hotels and basic guest houses. Lots of variety. All travellers are given a single room by default, and there's a discount of \$1000 when couples or friends choose to share a room.

Difficulty Rating

The elevation on this tour is very high, but we make the transitions very slowly to avoid risk of altitude sickness. No medication or training is required. The jeep trail is challenging and bumpy, and once we arrive at villages we make slow walks further up the hill to capture better views.

Not included

- Flights to and from Nepal
- Visa for Nepal
- Items of personal nature
- Beverages, laundry, phone & internet

The itinerary information may vary slightly for your specific departure, as we continuously research and develop each trip. Inclement weather or other factors outside our control may also necessitate minor alterations.

HOWTO BOOK

2024: November 4 - November 16

13 days

Max group of 8

Single Room Price: US\$11,880

(Couples Discount - US\$1000)

Hit the website to book online. Deposits are required to confirm your place and can be paid via credit card or bank deposit.

ewenbell.com/manang



Photography by Ewen Bell



