

# Photography Tour

with Ewen Bell & David Norris

## Bhutan

Softly softly in the land of the Thunder Dragon.  
A journey from festivals to farmers with intimate  
moments and fabulous photography. Come and  
find out why Ewen Bell regards Bhutan as such  
a treasured experience, and why the people of  
Bhutan are the happiest on earth.

Maximum group size of 8  
US\$9,088pp / 16 Days  
Dec 3-18, 2021

PHOTOGRAPHY  
by Ewen Bell



# The Itinerary

## Day 1 | Bangkok

Our journey into Bhutan is based through Bangkok and we meet on the evening of day 1 before flying into Paro the next day. The airfare into and out of Paro is included in the tour.

## Day 2 | Thimphu

We have an early morning flight to Paro and then a slow drive through the countryside to get familiar with the landscapes. Normally this drive takes about 1 hour, but with a group of photographers we like to take all afternoon.

## Days 3-4 | Punakha

Punakha has one of the most beautiful Dzongs in the entire country and we'll explore it from every angle. Several other temples in the area offer unique photographic charms too and the village of Chimi is a particular favourite for sunrise.

## Days 5-7 | Phobjikha

This secluded valley gets really cold at night but we'll be cosy in a farmhouse with log fires and hot showers. The valley still continues with a very basic rural style and offers us a chance to really slow down and contemplate the art of photography. This is home to the potato farmers and the Black Necked Crane, the latter of which will be spending the winter in the valley and likely to be seen from a distance.

## Day 8-10 | Trongsa

This drive is beautiful and dramatic with lots of scenic stops along the way. Trongsa is the highlight of the journey with my favourite Dzong of all Bhutan dominating the view. Trongsa will be holding its all annual celebration during our visit and should prove to be the highlight of our journey.

## Days 11-12 | Bumthang

We drive a little further into Central Bhutan and explore some of the charms of Bumthang. The landscape here really is different to the Trongsa side of the mountains, and of course there are more temples and wilderness to explore.

## Days 13-14 | Paro

We return back to Paro for a little pampering in the most scenic valley Bhutan has to offer. We'll get up close to the scenery in a serious way by ascending the trail to the Tigers Nest. The Tigers Nest is remarkable, a fitting highlight to finish our journey. This is a difficult days hike both going up and going down, so talk to us first if you're at all unsure about the challenge.

## Day 15 | Departure

Everybody goes home, catching the plane back to Bangkok for our connecting flights.

1

## The Festival

We have three full days to photograph Trongsa Festival.

3

## Inclusions

Everything is covered including the flight into Paro from Bangkok.

5

## Peaceful

Explore the quiet moments of Bhutanese culture.

2

## Cranes

Meet the rare Black Necked Cranes in Phobjikha Valley

4

## Education

Two weeks of dedicated assistance from a professional.

6

## Personal

Very intimate tour with just 8 people











# Highlights (not hikes)

This tour is for photographers, not trekkers. There is walking to reach the highest temples, but the tour design is comfortable, achievable and carefully balanced to suit the needs of photographers who want to stop every hour and take pictures on a whim.

Enjoyment of walking is essential to photography in Bhutan, but we don't do any overnight treks. The hardest section is the walk to Tigers Nest, and while the climb is steep the views are majestic. You can look forward to the following photographic highlights during this Bhutan Photography Tour...

- Extended visits to some of the most majestic of Dzongs in Bhutan
- Stop and smell the Himalayan air at high passes such as Dochu La and Pele La
- Sacred chams at the temple festivals performed by monks
- Exploration of the cultural heritage from Tibetan Buddhist origins
- Stay with remote farming communities and their families
- Sunrise above the rice fields and terraces
- Private blessings with a Lama
- The challenging hill climb to reach Tigers Nest (Taktsang Monastery)

















# Your Expert on Bhutan

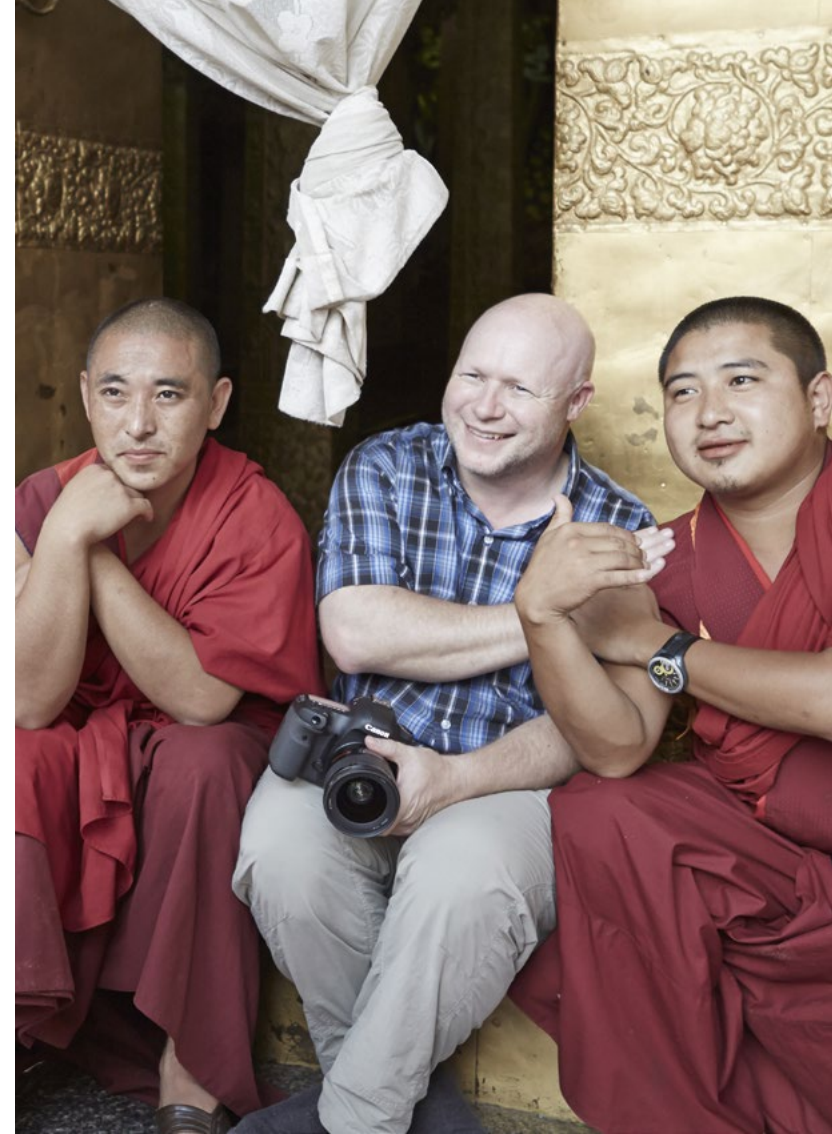
For the duration of the tour your photographic instructor and escort will be Ewen Bell. His work is published all over the world in travel brochures, the travel media and photography magazines. Ewen's depth of experience with photography tours is impressive, covering destinations across Asia, Europe, Australia and Antarctica.

"Bhutan is unique for photographers, a place where traditional culture is remarkably strong. The outside world hasn't claimed Bhutan yet."

It wouldn't be a great photo tour without a great photographer. But don't take our word for it, visit his website and see for yourself.

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

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



# David Norris

Your second photographic guide for this tour is David Norris.

David has been involved behind the scenes with Melbourne based camera clubs for over a decade. Organising club outings and training events is just one part of his contribution to photography and teaching. David judges at club, state and national levels, offering a thoughtful and generous style of feedback. He is deeply respectful of his photographic colleagues, and his photographic subjects.

In 2018 he proudly received EFIAP and FAPS honours.



















# Photographic Tuition

Not only are these tours designed to deliver exceptional photographic opportunities, but you get the professional photographer included too. Ewen Bell has been running these tours since 2005, working hard to make them even better with each year of experience.

Because the tours are limited to very small groups of just 8 people, Ewen has time to help you with one-on-one advice. For two weeks you have a personal expert to offer ideas and answer questions. Even better, you're travelling in a group of like-minded people, resulting in a total photographic immersion.

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

These tours are designed to help you learn to take better photos, and go home with some incredible experiences. Ewen will be there every step of the way to offer support as you need it.





# Learn and Explore

Anyone who loves photography can join this tour.

Skills and experience is not a prerequisite. Enthusiasm is essential. There is ample one on one time so that your questions can be answered, your photos can be reviewed and your expression can be encouraged. With such a small group size we can ensure everybody gets the encouragement and guidance they desire.

If you're a confident photographer or already work at a professional level, then this journey will simply assist with getting great shots. We encourage everyone on tour to share ideas, to discuss their experiences and learn from each other as well.

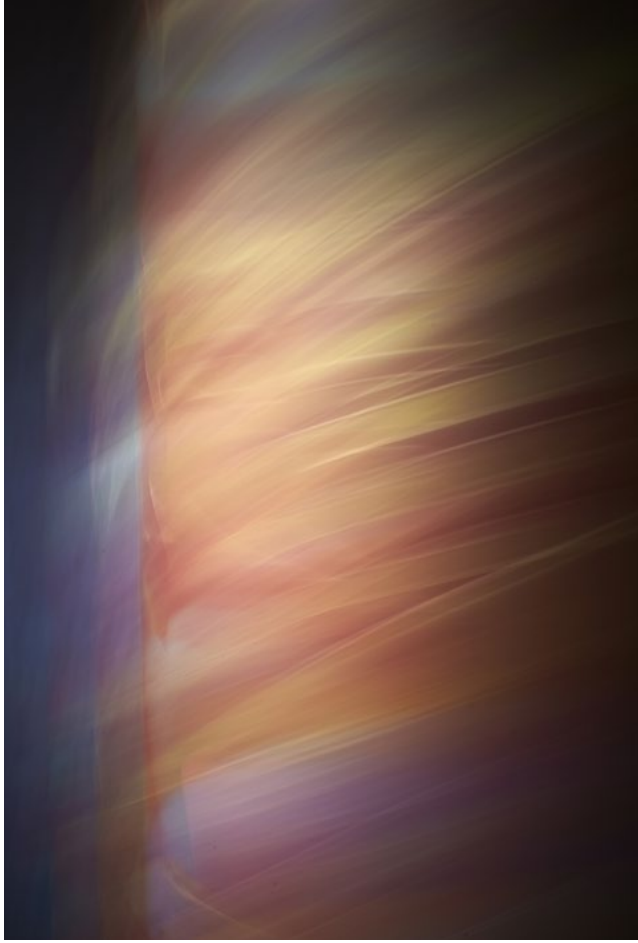
Partners are also welcome on these photo tours, but they may need to exercise a little patience with the desires of photographers to make the most of special moments. My photography tours put the photographers first :)













# 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 Ewen's past travellers on photography tours by visiting [www.ewenbell.com](http://www.ewenbell.com)



# 8 is Great!

Ewen Bell restricts all of his photographic tours to just 8 people. With good reason.

"I never want to run a photography tour with more than 8 people, let alone 12 or 16. Smaller groups mean less drama, more fun and are infinitely more rewarding. My first responsibility is to ensure every person on my tour gets plenty of my time and advice, plus to ensure we don't ruin a lovely location by dragging a horde of photographers about. Small isn't just good, it's great!"





















# Art and 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. Travelling with a photo tour like this one will offer lots of inspiration, but travelling with an instructor like Ewen will give you new ways to express your experience.

A few basic principles underpin the art of travel photography. Go Slow. Get Closer. Look for the Light. Join Ewen for two weeks of photographic adventure and find out for yourself how much inspiration can flow from three very simple ideas.



# Camera Gear

We recommend the use of Digital SLR cameras for this journey, but you are not restricted from using any type of camera you may have, including conventional film SLRs and compact cameras. We will have access to power for recharging batteries on every evening of the trip, but it's never a bad idea to have a couple of spare batteries for your camera body.

We also recommend that you carry a wide angle lens for general use and landscape opportunities, and for attending festivals a fast 50mm lens will be handy. A modest telephoto such as 70-200mm zoom is also useful at festivals for when you can't get close enough to the action. We will also be viewing some of the wild Black-necked Cranes during the trip, so a 600mm range would be required to get satisfaction with them. Most of the time the telephotos will rest in the bus, taken out only for the festivals or wildlife.

Finally, we do encourage you bring a laptop. We'll have lots of opportunity to share and review images during the journey and discuss techniques for processing RAW files. Also your laptop can serve as a valuable backup or storage device to make room for more photographs each day.















# The Fine Print

## Dates

2021: December 03 - 18

## Price

US\$9,088

## Group Size

Maximum of 8 people

## Inclusions

The instructing photographer and a local guide are included for this tour. All meals in Thailand and Bhutan, the Bhutan Visa fee, your return flight between Bangkok and Paro, all transfers in and around Bhutan, the internal flight from Paro to Bumthang, the mandatory Tourism Development Fee, the Bhutan Government Taxes (35%) and all entry fees to temples & monuments.

## Accommodation

A mix of 4 star resort, charming guest houses and tourist grade hotels. Lots of variety. All accommodation is on a twin-share basis unless you select to pay the single supplement of US\$1,180.

## Difficulty Rating

Our private bus for the trip will have plenty of extra room for camera gear. This is not a trekking tour, but does have some challenges if your lifestyle does not include daily walking. The hike up to Tigers Nest is the hardest section with two hours of uphill walking.

## Not included

- Flight to and from Bangkok
- Gratuities and items of personal nature
- Beverages, Laundry, Phone and Internet Charges
- Your Camera!

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.



# Make A Booking

## How to Book

Follow the link to Ewen's website and fill out the booking form. Once your deposit of US\$1,800 has been received your place on the tour will be confirmed.

[ewenbell.com/bhutan](http://ewenbell.com/bhutan)

Ewen will be available to help plan packing, flights and talk camera gear in preparation for the trip. Or just email him any questions you have before booking.

[ewen@ewenbell.com](mailto:ewen@ewenbell.com)

