PHOTOGRAPHY ADVENTURE
EWEN BELL

NEPAL

This is a photographic journey into the remote Annapurnas and the charming villages of Kathmandu Valley. An adventure designed by photographers, for photographers. No trekking required, just great moments for you and your camera!

2027 November 19
US$8,780



GO SLOW

The most unique aspect of this style of travel is the emphasis on taking the travel slowly, to have time in fewer places and see more of those places. We travel by jeeps into the mountains, free to stop and take photos when something presents itself.

This is not a package tour designed for the masses, it's a photographic journey designed for photographers, by photographers.



TAKE BETTER PHOTOS

The photographic themes designed into this trip are aimed at people with a fundamental knowledge of their camera, but who want to learn more. A basic knowledge of aperture, focal length, depth of field and exposure is useful, but not essential. We will even help you learn the technical use of your camera, if that's what you need.

For more experienced photographers the itinerary alone will be an inspiration for your artistic output, plus the chance to share stories with an award winning travel journalist.

People of many different skill levels and ambition will be gathered for the journey, so expect to be in the company of diversity. This tour will appeal to anyone who wants to immerse themselves in the process of cultivating skills and exploring cultures. You will have a chance to discuss techniques and principles, then immediately go out and practise. This will not give you a qualification, but hopefully will give you confidence and direction to take better photos



ITINERARY

Day 1-2 | Arrival in Kathmandu

We meet in Kathmandu on the evening of day one to orientate and meet the group. This is a chance to lay down a few ideas for photography and talk about your camera gear and creative direction. For new travellers to the region this is a chance to get an introduction to Nepal, the local cuisine and a few fundamentals to help you through the journey ahead.

The next day we start early to see the Monkey Temple (Swayambunath) at sunrise and study the changing character of the light with the benefit of inspiring subjects. Buddhist and Hindu devotion are both rewarding elements for our photography. Later in the day we visit the Tibetan quarter and the magnificent Boudanath. This is a remarkable place of devotion and a unique place to discuss photography techniques.

Days 3-4 | Bhaktapur 1400m

We spend two nights in the city of Bhaktapur, one of the former kingdoms in the Kathmandu Valley. “The City of Devotees” still retains its medieval charm and we explore the laneways and Newari architecture with the benefit of late afternoon and early morning light. Bhaktapur gives us a glimpse of what Kathmandu Valley was once like, before it became so busy. At dusk and dawn the streets fill with local produce vendors selling their goods to residents, adding an intimate range of subjects for our photography.

Day 5 | Pokhara 1400m

We get in one more dawn shoot in the Durbar Square of Bhaktapur before heading to Pokhara. There are no afternoon flights into the mountains, so we have to overnight in Pokhara before heading on the next morning. We make sure we have a nice hotel room and one last chance to shop for any additional warm gear.

15 days exploring Nepal with private vehicles, internal flights and friendly porters for the tricky bits. Accompanied by professional photographer Ewen Bell.

All accommodation, meals, jeeps, and sadus are included!



Days 6-7 | Marpha | 2600m

Our morning flight into the Annapurnas begins by following the path of the Kali Gandaki River. We spend two nights in the charming town of Marpha to photograph a few villages, moraines and scenic locations. These few days also help us to adjust to the mountain air and altitude. The pace is easy for these two days, but there are opportunities for short hikes for those who want to stretch the legs. Accommodation for these two days is clean but simple, taking advantage of some local guesthouses that offer good food and great access to photographic inspiration. Aside from a special scenic location in the village, we also plan on walking through the village of Tukuche lower down the valley, and capturing scenes of the river and ancient streets.

Days 8-11 | Kagbeni | 2750m

We now head deeper into the former Mustang Kingdom where the landscape presents ever changing views of the Annapurnas and their peaks. Dhaulagiri and Nilgiri present themselves in various facades as we head into and out of Jomsom. We share some of our favourite photographic locations along the way, making the most of the morning light. Some sections of the road are better suited to trekkers than jeeps, so hold onto your pack and enjoy the ride. Once we arrive in Kagbeni we'll have some stunning sunrise opportunities, colourful vistas and a Tibetan monastery to photograph. Kagbeni sits at an altitude of 2750m.

We have several highlights planned for our time in Kagbeni, plus they have an excellent supply of coffee in this village for those who enjoy a daily fix :) We visit a couple of nearby towns while in Kagbeni and have the luxury to leave the luggage unpacked for 4 nights.

While in Kagbeni we will also make a day trip to Muktinath, the highest place on our journey. The temple sits high above the township at an elevation of 3700m. This is a very sacred temple that attracts both Hindu and Buddhist pilgrims and rests high above the township. It's a bit of a huff to get up the slope to the temples, but then we wait for the afternoon light to make the most of the photography.

Days 12 | Jomsom | 2600m

We spend the morning visiting another village near Jomsom with stunning Himalayan views, then return to our accommodation near the airport after lunch. We have a favourite guesthouse here that serves great fresh crushed apple juice, fluffy pancakes and potato & cheese momos. We catch up on some image processing before flying out very early the next morning. We also get one last chance to shoot the peaks of Nilgiri at dusk and dawn as our guesthouse in Jomsom provides excellent views of these ranges.



Day 13-15 | Kathmandu | 1300m

We fly from Jomsom to Kathmandu and enjoy a little pampering after the dust and elevation of the Annapurnas. Our final full day in Kathmandu will give us a chance to explore the most significant and chaotic Hindu temple of the valley, Pashupatinath. We'll meet the holy men and learn about the art of cremation. It's a unique and very public sacred site.

Day 15 | Departure

On the final day we head to the airport at Kathmandu and fly home. Your transfer to the airport is included and we recommend you arrange flights to depart around lunchtime or soon after.



IMAGE PROCESSING

Please bring your laptop for the journey as we will have sessions to discuss processing techniques and leave enough downtime to go through images each day.

Capturing an image is only half the job, the other half is processing.

SPECIAL MOMENTS

Our aim is to give you something special every single day. We cannot control the weather but we can design an itinerary that gets us to great places. After a decade of travelling the Himalayas we are confident we can help you get some wonderful opportunities, and give you plenty of guidance to help capture those moments.



 © Ewen Bell



POWERFUL PORTRAITS

Learn from Ewen about the art of portraits, but in the travel context. Lenses and light make a difference, but mostly it comes down to you and how you connect with the subject. Nepal is a rewarding place for portrait photography and Ewen can help you make the most of such opportunities.



PHOTOGRAPHIC ESCORT
EWEN BELL

For the duration of the journey 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 including National Geographic in the USA and Food & Travel in the UK. Ewen's depth of experience with leading tours is impressive, with over 25 journeys completed in recent years across Asia, Australia and Antarctica.

"Stunning snow capped peaks, warm and inviting people, ancient temples at sunrise, and you never know what surprises are waiting for you around the corner. Nepal is special. Nepal is genuinely rewarding for any photographer."

It wouldn't be a great photography adventure without a great photographer. But don't take our word for it, visit his websites and see for yourself.

www.ewenbell.com



THIS ADVENTURE

A unique journey for a very small group of photographers through a diverse country of landscapes and cultures. We help you to get the right sunset, to access the most idyllic wilderness, to meet diverse ethnic groups and to make sure you have the time to explore your craft in the process. You won't be worried about travel, meals or accommodation - it's taken care of for you.

Secondly you will be guided by an experienced professional photographer who is on call to assist you at every turn. Some structured sessions are planned for the trip, but in fact every moment of the journey is a chance to learn as much, or as little, as your interest allows.

We will also encourage people to share their work during the trip. Review is very important and can greatly assist the development of your own personal style. Throughout the trip you will be free to consult with your photographic guide as well. You are not confined to the sessions to talk about your work and ideas! This will be a 15 day photographic immersion with like minded people, a tour designed by photographers for photographers.

GO WIDE

This is a great trip to get familiar with how to shoot with a wide angle lens. The wider the better and we recommend you have at least a 24mm perspective to work with, and ideally a 15mm ultra wide. Ewen can show you when and why a wide lens can help you build better compositions.



 © Ewen Bell



RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

At all times during our journey we need to be mindful of how our presence can impact on the cultures we wish to observe. Travel photography carries an even greater burden to ensure that you respect cultural beliefs and personal privacy. We never take photos of people without their express consent; instead we will learn techniques to enable you to gain more intimate connections.



HIMALAYAN HOSPITALITY

This journey goes up into the Annapurnas and far from the comfortable hotels of Kathmandu. We stay in very basic guesthouses that are more accustomed to trekkers than photographers. They can be very charming, but also can be a little cold. We supply very warm sleeping bags so you will be warm through the night.. The mornings are very crisp indeed and can drop below zero. Once the sun comes out the landscape warms up again and often we're back to wearing a shirt and jeans.

We like to ensure that our travellers are fully aware of the limits to what they can expect in the way of comfort. The hot water is solar powered and there is no heating in the guesthouses. We supply as many pots of hot tea as required, and we know a few places for a good coffee as well.

We advise people pack warm puffy jackets, or buy one in Kathmandu before we leave the city. They in generous supply and are very well priced. If you prefer, it is possible to rent one instead.

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YOUR LOCAL GUIDE TSERING

Tsering is a Sherpa and is the daughter of a trekking guide who has worked his entire life climbing some of Nepal's most difficult mountains. She does do the occasional trip to Everest Base Camp with a group, but to be honest she really enjoys the photography tours. We're more gentle on the schedule and on the hiking!

Meet Tsering and get the benefit of a local perspective as we journey around Nepal.



8 IS GREAT

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

“Genuinely small groups of just 8 people are a real luxury, and while it costs a little more to achieve smaller tours it simply makes for a more rewarding photographic journey. My first responsibility is to ensure every person on my tour gets plenty of my time and advice, and the second responsibility is create the best possible photographic opportunities. For these reasons, small isn’t just a good thing it’s a great thing!”





DIVERSITY IN NEPAL

Cultural, Religious and Geographic Diversity are the essence of this trip. Few places in the world offer a chance to wash your feet in the Trishuli River one day and then views of snow capped peaks the next. From the Newari people of Kathmandu Valley, the holy traditions of pilgrims at Muktinath, the vibrance of Hinduism in Kathmandu and the Tibetan people of the Annapurnas. This is really three journeys in one, an unusual trip that is demanding on your camera kit and pushes your fitness just a little by venturing into the mountains.











ANNAPURNAS

This tour is for photographers, not trekkers. We get into the majestic Himalayan scenery with maximum transportation and minimal hiking. We save the walking for when we have photos to chase.



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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 25-65, 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 our past travellers in Nepal by visiting ewenbell.com



TESTIMONIALS



“Travelling to Nepal with Ewen & Ian truly lived up to its billing as a travel photography adventure. The itinerary took us from the colour and chaos of Kathmandu via the genteel charm Bhaktapur and Bandipur to the majestic Annapurna mountains providing us with a variety of people, places and landscapes to get the creative juices flowing.

Ewen is an inspirational teacher, he was always on hand to provide assistance or feedback whereever required. He also demonstrated techniques for shooting in a range of lighting situations to ensure we all developed our understanding of how to work with the light allowing us to come away with some memorable images. Ian was also very willing to pass on his wealth of experience of shooting landscapes (particularly panoramas which came in very handy in the Annapurnas).

Ewen’s passion for photography is matched by his respect and passion for the culture and the people of Nepal (and maybe a plate of momos). That affinity for the local people has helped Ewen build a strong local support team on the ground who were very friendly and worked hard to ensure our trip went as smoothly as the road conditions in Nepal will allow.

Anyone considering a photo journey to Nepal really need look no further.”
- Richard, Nepal Photo Tour 2016

“Our journey with Ewen Bell through Nepal in 2014 was exciting both scenically and culturally. The majesty of the mountains is probably surpassed by the friendliness of the people. There are many great photographic opportunities of the people, their towns nestled between the giant peaks, and their religious shrines as well as the mountains themselves.

Ewen had a lot to teach, especially regarding the use of light to make stunning images and the use of color in post-processing to recreate the mood of the country. One especially treasured set of memories is of the local guides who were among the most considerate and warm people we have encountered.”
- Martin & Bev, Nepal Photo Tour 2014

TESTIMONIALS



"Joining Ewen Bell on his Nepalese tour was the best travel decision I've ever made. Ewen oozes knowledge and passion, his affinity with the local people is infectious. I learnt so much about photography and coupled with using the best available light it was an awesome adventure. The support team around Ewen was fantastic, from checking into accommodation to being out on the road I couldn't have asked for more. I've made some great friends and can't wait to do it again, frankly i couldn't recommend him highly enough!"
- David, Nepal Photo Tour 2013

"I travelled to Nepal with Ewen earlier this year. This is my fourth photography tour with Ewen and as always I loved the trip. Ewen has a gift of showing you the 'real' aspects of a country and it's people. Every day is an adventure and learning different photography techniques and his passion for his craft is inspiring. His mantra 'go slow' means that you get to see and do things that others may never experience. I thoroughly enjoy travelling with Ewen, he is a fabulous mentor, a great travel companion and I look forward to doing another trip with him."
- Eve, Nepal Photo Tour 2012

"I now fully appreciate what the words 'tour de force' mean. From the frenetic pace of crowded Kathmandu to the more gentle pace of ancient Baktapur, the wildlife of Chitwan National Park, the picturesque provincial town of Pokhara, the rugged beauty of the Annapurnas and village life in rural communities, we had an amazing time. Nearly every day, we were up before the sun to catch the first precious rays of light and at the end of the day totally ready to collapse into bed. Yes, it was hard work but the rewards were well worth the effort.

The travel experience was a pleasure, occasionally punctuated with the odd surprise, such as an unexpected departure from Chitwan by elephant. Just as importantly, my photography reached a new level. I felt rather like the sorcerer's apprentice following in the footsteps of the sorcerer (Ewen Bell) who helped me along the path to improving my digital sorcery.

The results speak for themselves and I can even claim to be smugly proud of more than a few remarkable shots. So many thanks to those who made it possible: Ewen, Sam the Mountain Man, Mr Mohan, our gentlemanly Nepali guide, and most of all the Nepalese people who were a delight everywhere we went."
- Martin Z, Nepal Photo Tour 2011



GUESTHOUSES

Once we leave Kathmandu Valley the accommodation available to us are basic guesthouses that cater to trekkers. They are clean and we have private en-suites for all rooms. We also provide extra warmth sleeping bags in case the overnight cold bites harder for some of our travellers.



LOCAL FOOD

We like to eat local on these trips, which is sometimes interesting but always tasty. Vegetarian options are very good in Nepal too. If you don't like rice and Indian food then maybe this trip isn't for you. If you have a little spirit of adventure though, the culinary journey in Nepal will be a highlight for you.

PRE-TRIP ESSENTIALS



Packing

Choosing the right clothing is very important. You want to have enough clothes to stay warm or cool yet not over pack. Usually you will have warm days and cold nights. A warm jacket either fleece or down can be better for the evening. Long under wear and wool socks are good for warmth too.

We encourage people to bring a light pair of pants for walking about in Kathmandu Valley where it's warm, and jeans or trekking pants for the cooler air in the Annapurnas. Sunscreen and glasses are a must. Extra gear can be purchased in Kathmandu or Pokhara at one of the many outdoor gear shops. Pack comfortable shoes too, as we will be on our feet quite a lot. Before the tour departs you will be provided with a detailed Pre-Departure Guide which lists suggested items for packing and other useful information.

Weather

The weather in November will be comfortable in Kathmandu but cold overnight in the Annapurnas. Clear views make this time a year one of the most photogenic seasons to visit Nepal. It will typically be sunny during the day and cold at night, especially at the higher elevations. Sudden cold fronts are always a possibility so we pack for colder conditions than we actually expect.

Great Guides

We are prepared for any emergency situation. Our guides are trained in first aid and can deal with most of the basic ailments that occur at altitude, in the jungles or downtown Kathmandu. Every traveller must have full travel insurance before coming to Nepal. If an emergency occurs, we will evacuated you to one of the International clinics in Kathmandu and contact your travel insurance for you.

Altitude

Our routes are carefully planned to allow for proper acclimatisation in order to eliminate the risk of adverse reactions. Quick changes in altitude can lead to accurate altitude symptoms, so we avoid that entirely and take the slow path to higher ground over several days. During the transition you may feel some effects of altitude such as breathlessness, lethargy and mild headaches. Maintaining adequate fluid intake and going slowly is the key to handling these conditions.

Your tour leaders do not take any drugs to aid with altitude, such as Diamox. We make no recommendation that you should need such extreme medication just for the modest altitudes we experience on this tour. The itinerary is designed especially to avoid any risk of altitude sickness, allowing you to enjoy the scenery without having to resort to medication.

WHY I LOVE THE HIMALAYAS

Ewen has been travelling to Nepal for over a decade and just loves coming back. He has a great team on the ground to make the trips run smoothly, and he understands the limitations and possibilities of travel in this part of the world.

Winter especially is his favourite time to travel here, with brilliant sunny days and clear cool nights.



 © Ewen Bell



Starting in Kathmandu:
November 19, 2027

Tour cost:
US$8,780 / Twin share
US$9,780 / Single

Group Size:
8 people

All meals, local transport, permits and Annapurna flights are included

All photos shown in this brochure were taken by Ewen Bell during previous photo tours in Nepal. What you see, is what you get!

HOW TO BOOK

Simply visit the link below and fill out the booking form. Ewen will email details for making your deposit, and once payment is received your place is confirmed :)

ewenbell.com/nepal

You can also find out more about this trip and why Nepal is a paradise for photographer by emailing Ewen or go online to his website...

www.ewenbell.com
ewen@ewenbell.com



I added this page to the brochure because I wanted to say a few words about the photos in here. All the images you see in this brochure were taken by myself, Ewen Bell, during previous photo tours in Nepal.

What you see, is what you get!

I'm lucky to say I've been travelling to Nepal for over 15 years now. Each time I go back it's an absolute joy for me. I've met so many great people on my journeys, and shared the tours with some fabulous people too. Nepal attracts like minded souls, photographers who appreciate the journey and making a connection.

You may notice that this brochure layout is not the same as my other tours. Most people won't notice maybe! Anyway, this is my original brochure format, from over a decade ago. Every few years I think "hey I gotta update that brochure" and then I start a new one and realise the old one is better and somehow conveys exactly what it feels like to be in Nepal.

So here we are. I hope you get to visit this great country one day, and find out why I love it so much.

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