

TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY ADVENTURE
IAN ROLFE & EWEN BELL

Ian Rolfe
PHOTOGRAPHY
SOUTHERN LIGHTSCAPES

NEPAL 2016

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!

October 1-15, 2016

USD\$4,750 plus international airfares

PHOTOGRAPHY
by Ewen Bell



ITINERARY

15 days exploring Nepal by private van, light aircraft and friendly porters. Accompanied by professional photographers Ian Rolfe and Ewen Bell - All accommodation, meals and sadus are included.



Day 1-2 | Arrival in Kathmandu

We ask individual travellers to plan their arrival in Kathmandu or travel with Ian when he departs Melbourne. Our guests will be greeted by our private van and taken to the hotel. Our accommodation is a simple but charming guesthouse in the heart of Kathmandu's Thamel district. That evening we enjoy dinner and a discussion about the journey ahead.

The next day we start early to see the Monkey Temple (Swayambunath) at sunrise and later in the day we visit the Hindu temple and holy men of Pashupatinath and then immerse ourselves in the chaos of Durbar Square. We'll find ourselves confronted by Sadu of varying holy authenticity, we'll walk through the Thamel streets where residents buy their produce for dinner and have time to talk about the camera and light in preparation for the journey.

Day 3 | Bhaktapur

We spend a night 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 get a chance to explore the laneways and Newari architecture with afternoon and morning light. The past glory of the Malla rulers are reflected at the towns Durbar Square while traditional industries of pottery and weaving are on show to this day. 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 4 | Bandipur

We have a long drive to reach the Pokhara Valley and the hill-top town of Bandipur on the way we follow mighty rivers, stop for a local style lunch of Dahl Bhat and finish in a boutique hotel in Bandipur. These are also Newari people.

Day 5 | Pokhara

We drive to the town of Pokhara with a few scenic stops on the way. This is our base for preparing for the Annapurnas ahead, and we make arrangements to ensure all travellers have warm clothing and snug sleeping bags. You may wish to shop for a warm jacket or gloves for the cool weather ahead, and Pokhara is wall to wall with vendors to sell you some outdoor gear. We'll enjoy a tandoori meal and fresh fruit juices. We stay in the Fish Tail Resort and hope for a clear morning so we can view the Fish Tail Peak (Machupuche) from the hotel.

Days 6-7 | Marpha

The day starts early with a spectacular flight into Jomsom, a village in the Annapurna mountains of Nepal located at 2800m. We spend two nights to the south in the charming town of Marpha to explore 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. Jomsom sits at 2750m of altitude, but our villages to the south are only 2600m high.

Days 8-9 | Kagbeni

We head further into the former Mustang Kingdom where the landscape presents ever changing views of the Annapurnas and their peaks. Dhaulagiri and Niligiri present themselves in various facades as we head north from Jomsom. Getting to Kagbeni is a tough day of jeeps, a short hike and some more jeeps. The trail is better suited to mountain trekkers than photographers, 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.

Day 10-11 | Muktinath

This is where things get a little tougher. Muktinath is where the jeep trail ends and you have to trek to go any further. It's also at an altitude of 3800m so we have to go easy on the thin air. The jeep ride is about an hour and it's rough and tumble all the way. We spend two nights here so we can explore the sacred temple that attracts both Hindu and Buddhist pilgrims, plus visit surrounding towns. The most prominent shrine is a Vishnu temple where 108 spouts, fashioned in the shape of cows heads, pour forth water that is considered to be holy. There are great landscape vistas to be enjoyed at sunrise, and also sunset if the skies remain clear.

Days 12 | Jomsom

We spend the morning visiting local villages around Muktinath, then return to Jomsom after lunch for a single night with hot showers and hot food. We have a favourite guesthouse here that serves great fresh crushed apple juice, fluffy pancakes and potato & cheese mo-mos. We rest up before flying out very early the next morning, but also plan to get one last chance to shoot the peaks of Nilgiri at dusk and dawn as Jomsom provides excellent views of these ranges.

Day 13-14 | Kathmandu

We have a travel day with two flights before arriving back in Kathmandu for lunch. We'll make a visit to Patan in the afternoon to explore the palace and heritage rich museum, or just wander the streets and sample 'ras mulai' from vendors.



The next day we start early to see a small Newari village beyond Kathmandu where chickens are sacred and goats trample the stupas. We finish the day with sunset at the Tibetan Buddhist temple of Boudhanath before a farewell dinner.

Day 15 | Flying Home

On the final day we are transferred to the airport around lunchtime to fly home. Our group flight will return to Melbourne the following day, with the first sector in the afternoon and the final sector overnight.



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 two professional photographers who are 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.

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



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 van across the province, 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.





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.

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7/15

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PHOTOGRAPHIC ESCORT IAN ROLFE

Ian has been photographing since the age of eight when he received a small camera for his birthday from his mother. The art of imagery, has been a passion for him ever since. Over the years Ian has travelled extensively in Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, South-East Asia, Iceland, The Arctic Circle, North America and the Pacific Islands, where he has built up an extensive photo image library used in the travel industry and his own photographic writing. Ian has established himself as a well-known travel and Landscape photographer, whose column started to appear in the Photo-Master magazine over fifteen years ago.

Ian's work has been published in countless books, magazines, brochures and his Panoramic images are represented in a major European Image Library. Ian conducts a handful of photographic workshops and tours every year, both locally and overseas, gives lectures and presentations to clubs and Societies and produces fine art prints of his work for galleries. To date, Ian has been involved in over 100 photo-based workshops and continues to be totally committed to helping people who want to develop their photographic knowledge and skills.

Ian is a Master of Photography and Fellow of the APS and has been recognized internationally as an Artiste of FIAP. He has also been awarded the Service Medal of his contribution to photography by VAPS, is currently a committee member and serves on the recently established board of Australian Judges Association. Ian is also an accredited professional photographer with AIPP and is more than ready to share his passion, knowledge and experience with you.



PHOTOGRAPHIC ESCORT EWEN BELL

Ewen Bell is a travel junkie and recognises the unique charms that Nepal has to offer the photographer, both for beautiful images and because the people of Nepal are so welcoming and kind. Travel photography is his calling but Ewen has also been practising commercial photography since 1990 with experience in wildlife, travel, commercial and portraiture. Ewen's work is published in many travel brochures each year and appears in regular travel publications including the Escape Weekend editions across Australia, The Sydney Morning Herald and national magazines including Australian Traveller, Backpacker Essentials, National Geographic Traveller, Lonely Planet Traveller and a handful of inflight magazines.

Ewen was also chosen by the ASTW as their 2007 Australian Travel Photographer of the Year, and in 2008 won the award for Best Australian Image. 2009 he won two prizes in the M.I.L.K. awards Ewen has spent many years travelling in Asia and has a thorough appreciation for the cultural and historical context for his photographic journeys. He is genuinely passionate about Nepal and makes several trips to the region every year. Since 2006 ewen has led on average three photo tours per year, choosing to run a small number of trips so that he retains a keen passion for the experience.

8 IS GREAT

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

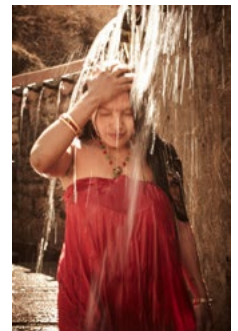
“Genuinely small groups of just 8 people are a real luxury, and while it costs a little more to achieve smaller tours it simply makes for a more rewarding photographic journey. My first responsibility is to ensure every person on my tour gets plenty of my time and advice, and the second responsibility 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.



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 www.ewenbell.com



TESTIMONIAL



“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 Anapurnas 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, Nepal Photo Tour 2011

“My fourth trip with Grasshopper Adventures to Nepal was the best yet. Someone on the trip said that her friend suggested that travelling to Nepal was the journey of a lifetime, and for all of us, I think it was. We started in the warm, vibrant and colorful Kathmandu Valley, moved to the rhinos and elephants of the Chitwan National Park, then on to the gray, stoney architecture of the mountain towns with bold splashes of color here and there and the majestic Himalayas shining in the sun. Spiritual places, scenery that takes your breath away, and people that are the kindest and warmest you will ever meet - that’s what we photographed. And Ewen and Sam gave us their experience and love for the country along the way. Tibetan music in the van, sunrise to catch the first light on the mountain peaks, an arm around an old man showing us his sword, a hug for a kid, a laugh and a cry. What a journey of a lifetime!”

- Elizabeth, Nepal Photo Tour 2012



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 underwear and wool socks are good for warmth too. We encourage people to bring a light pair of pants and shorts for hiking. Sunscreen and glasses are a must. Most gear can be purchased in Kathmandu or Pokhara at one of the many outdoor gear shops. Pack comfortable shoes too, as we will be walking 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. This is a demanding trip for both luggage and camera equipment, covering snow capped mountains, lowland plains and everything in between.

Weather

The weather in late October should be good. Clear views make this time a year one of the most important seasons to visit Nepal. It might be sunny during the day and cold at night, especially at the higher altitudes. Sudden rain storms or snow flurries are always a possibility. Be prepared!

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 evacuate 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 acclimatization in order to eliminate the risk of adverse reactions. Quick changes in altitude can lead to acute 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 use specific drugs to aid with altitude, such as Diamox, but please consult your doctor to discuss whether such medication is suitable for you. If you are taking such medication please be sure to advise the tour leaders so they can be prepared for contra-indicators of such medicine.

Altitude sickness can be a worry for many people. Most symptoms are not cause for worry and are usually just a nuisance. We take great care to design this journey to ensure you have a gradual and comfortable ascent.



Starting in Kathmandu:
October 1, 2016

Departing Kathmandu:
October 15, 2016

Tour cost:
USD\$4,750
(excluding international airfare)

Group Size:
8 people

All meals, transport, permits and
Jomsom 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 and Ian will email details for making your deposit, and once payment is received your place is confirmed :)

ewenbell.com/booknow.php?book=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...

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