

TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY ADVENTURE

EWEN BELL

NEPAL 2019

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!

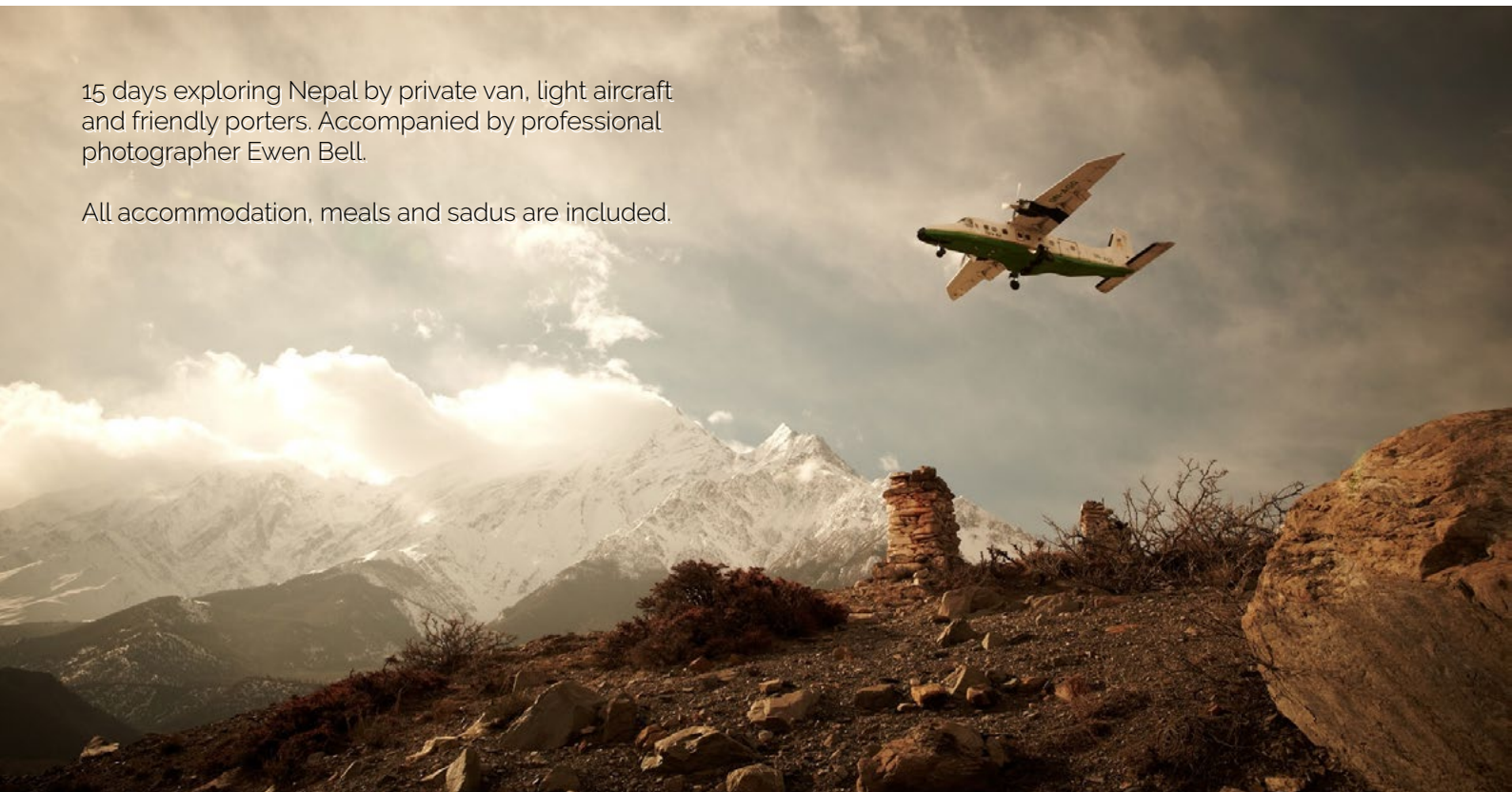
November 8-22, 2019

AUD\$6,888



15 days exploring Nepal by private van, light aircraft and friendly porters. Accompanied by professional photographer Ewen Bell.

All accommodation, meals and sadus are included.



ITINERARY

Day 1-2 | Arrival in Kathmandu

We meet in Kathmandu on the evening of day one to orientate and meet the group. The next day we start early to see the Monkey Temple (Swayambunath) at sunrise and 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.

In the afternoon we head deep into the Thamel district and Kathmandu's Durbar Square. From here we wind our way back to the hotel on foot through the residential part of Thamel where the streets are alive with vendors and buyers. By the end of the day we will have immersed in Kathmandu culture and have a plan for our photographic exploration ahead.

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 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 5 | Tatopani 2300m

We catch a flight to Pokhara and begin our journey by road through the foothills. We have time to stop on the way and photograph the scenery and farms. It's a long drive but we'll have private jeeps with 3 people to a car. That evening we finish at a town called Tatopani which has hot water springs and marvellous views of the mountains.

Days 6-7 | Marpha | 2600m

The drive from Tatopani to Marpha is stunning, as ever more peaks appear and we follow the path of the Kali Gandaki River. We spend two nights 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.

Days 8-10 | Kagbeni | 2750m

We head further 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. 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 11 | Muktinath | 3700m

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. The sacred temple that attracts both Hindu and Buddhist pilgrims. 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. We will explore another village close by to Muktinath as well with the option to continue walking downhill during the day. Anyone who prefers to rest with a hot pot of tea can jump in the jeep and meet us lower down the hill.

Days 12 | Jomsom | 2600m

We spend the morning visiting another village near Jomsom, 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 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 | 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.



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.

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 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.



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



PHOTOGRAPHIC ESCORT EWEN BELL

Travel photographer and journalist, Ewen has been shooting in Asia and The Himalayas for over 25 years. His photography of the landscapes and people in the region has been published internationally, most recently featuring in China and Australia's own RM Williams publications. Ewen's work also appears in photographic magazines, National Geographic Traveller, Food & Travel UK, Vacation & Travel, and many other outlets.

Ewen describes photography as a lifestyle, and enjoys sharing his love of the art with a select few travellers every year. Ewen is always happy to share his knowledge on photographic matters of technical, creative and career inspiration. His website "Photography for Travellers" is dedicated to offering advice on practical approaches to changing your creative perspective.

www.ewenbell.com

www.photographyfortravellers.com

8 IS GREAT

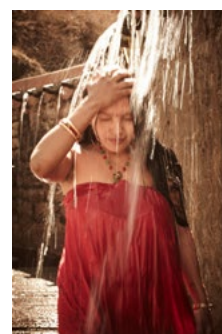
Ewen Bell restricts all of his photographic tours to just 8 people. With good reason.

"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



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 wherever 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



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 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 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 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 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.



Starting in Kathmandu:
November 8, 2019

Finishing in Kathmandu:
November 22, 2019

Tour cost:
AUD\$6,888
(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 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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