

PHOTOGRAPHIC AND CULTURAL TOURS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are some of your tours exclusively for photographers and others for non-photographers?

Currently, all our tours are open to – and equally appropriate for – both.

David provides informal photographic demonstrations and commentary to the entire group, but the trip is not run as a tightly structured “Photography Workshop” per se. We encourage you to make the most of your time in these culturally and visually fascinating countries - shooting, and interacting with the local people, rather than covering subjects such as Photoshop, Lightroom, etc. that can be learned in a classroom back home.

David has taught many photography-themed workshops, both in the U.S. and in the Himalaya for National Geographic Expeditions. He has found that many serious photographers are accompanied by a friend or spouse who aren't seeking the same emphasis on photography – but who *do* want to share an amazing life experience with their traveling companion.

David has also found that even amongst serious photographers, their current skill levels and personal objectives may vary widely. Some are seeking technical advice. Others already have a strong technical foundation and are more interested in defining their creative direction and developing a more distinctive, personal style. Usually, our clients are seeking a combination of both technical guidance and feedback on the creative aspects of their work. They will receive both!

Because our groups are small (12 maximum, 8-9 being the average), David can work with each photographer individually, providing an informal, personalized approach to instruction. This will include review and discussion of their shooting in progress (via laptop computer or portable viewers, such as the Epson P-6000, etc.), and both discussions and demonstrations in the field about how to create intimate portraiture despite language and other cultural barriers. We make frequent and unhurried stops for photography, and design our itineraries for working with good light and great subject matter. Whether your personal interests lean towards portraiture, landscape, architecture or still-life, this tour will provide you with many opportunities to create compelling imagery.

Will I need to bring my own laptop computer? Can I shoot film instead of digital?

If you would like to have review sessions with David during the tour, please bring your own laptop computer and editing software - and be familiar with using these tools. You are welcome to shoot film vs. digital if you prefer. However, there will not be an opportunity for quality processing and review of film-based images during the tour. David provides an on-line gallery for the group members to share their photographs and comments after the tour. This allows everyone the time to edit through their work and refine their selected images prior to posting for group review and comments.

Is a portfolio required for admission?

No portfolio is required - however a working knowledge of your camera in manual mode is expected. PLEASE bring your camera operating manual, and manual for flash units, etc. if you plan to use them. If you have work available for review online (via Flickr, a personal web site, etc.), David is happy to review and discuss your work to date and your objectives for this workshop prior to departure.