

BHUTAN Welcome to Bhutan, a magical country where things are just done different! You can't help but fall in love with a country that measures its success in units of Happiness!

BHUTAN Bhutan is no ordinary country. It is the last great Himalayan kingdom, enveloped in magic and mystery where a traditional Buddhist culture cautiously embraces global developments. It is a tiny small place on the map, but its topography, mountains and valleys are epic, daunting in scale a huge country to explore.

EAST BHUTAN KINGDOM OF THE HIMALAYAS

"Among the most captivating manifestations of Bhutan's unique heritage are the sacred Mask Dances, Chham. It is performed at local temples and monasteries during Tsechu festivals."



Bhutan, the colourful realm of the Thunder Dragon King, is a treasure house of Budish art, with some treks of a lifetime, mountains, monasteries and magic. Nature is untamed and the traditional Buddhist culture still thrives.

If you've been dreaming of a photography tour that leaves you awe-struck and inspired. Bhutan will take your breath away. This this is the tour you've been waiting for... Over 14 unforgettable days, you'll journey with an intimate group of passionate photographers across this incredible country. It's almost impossible to articulate the wonders that are waiting for you on this adventure.

To ensure you capture the best of Bhutan, Ignacio Palacios will be by your side every step of the way. As a multi-award-winning photographer, Ignacio will share his unique expertise, insight and best-kept professional secrets with you. With Ignacio's help you'll transform your skills as a photographer and ignite your passion for life.

Bhutan is a proud land of mystery and magic. On this tour, you'll walk your own path of mastery, create legendary memories, and capture images you'll share with pride.



BANGLADESH

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ITINERARY

"These energetic and vibrant displays are a fusion of religious rituals showcasing a journey into the heart of Bhutan's spiritual identity."



DAY 1 31 March: Bangkok/Kathmandu to Paro

Today you will fly from Bangkok to Paro with Drukair, one of the national airlines of Bhutan. Paro is home to the only international airport in country. In the 17th century Paro served as a trade route between Bhutan and Tibet.

Attend the local *tshechu* (festival). In Bhutan, every part of the country has its own festivals on different dates and months. The tshechu is mainly a religious event celebrated on tenth day of a month of lunar calendar corresponding to the birth day of Guru Rinpoche (Guru Padmasambhava). However, the month of the tshechu varies from place to place and temple to temple.

Tshechus are large social gatherings where people from various villages come together to witness the religious mask dances which are based on incidents from as long ago as the 8th century from the life of Guru Rimpoche, and to receive blessings from lamas. The event also consists of colorful Bhutanese dances and other entertainment.

Overnight in Paro.

DAY 2 | 1 April: Paro

In the early morning attend Paro Thongdrol. The Paro Thongdrol is a large applique thangka displayed to the public during the annual festival. A thongdrol, which means "liberation on sight" is revealed in order to confer blessing on those assembled. The thongdrole is brought out of Paro Dzong around 3am in a chindrel (ceremonial procession) on the last day of the festival.

Afternoon visit, the national museum: This watchtower was converted into the National Museum in 1968. The museum will introduce you to the history, culture, and tradition of the country, including the Buddhism practiced here.

Overnight in Paro.







DAY 3 | 2 April: Paro to Youngphula - Trashigang

Today you will fly from Paro to Eastern Bhutan. The drive from Youngphula airport to Trashigang is about an hour.

After lunch, visit Trashigang Dzong. The dzong was built in 1659 to defend against Tibetan invasions. According to legend, the sight of the Dzong scared the Tibetan army which retreated while remarking that the Dzong was a "Sky Dzong and was not on the ground".

Overnight in Trashigang.

DAY 4 | 3 April: Trashigang

After breakfast, drive to Rangjung and visit the most unique temple in the country. This is a private temple where the structure of the temple is copied from Tibet. There are about 150 monks in this temple, and it was founded in 1990.

Visit Radhi village: This village is very popular for weaving silk cloth/textiles and rice. This place has the most beautiful rice terraces. You might meet some Brokpas, the tribes that stay up in the mountains. They come down to the town to sell yak cheese and butter, and in return they buy salt, rice, and other necessary items.

Overnight in Trashigang.

DAY 5 | 4 April: Trashigang to Merak (drive 2–3 hours)

Situated at an altitude over 3,500 meters, the exotic valleys of Merak and Sakten have been home to the Brokpas for centuries since their displacement from Tsona in Southern Tibet. The nomadic indigenous group of eastern Bhutan, the Brokpas seasonally move their herds of livestock from the lower valleys in the winter to the higher pastures in the summer. While polygamy is a prevailing practice as well, marriage among.

Overnight in Merak farmhouse.

DAY 6 | 5 April: Merak to Trashigang

After breakfast, we will do some photo shoots with the nomadic herders wearing their traditional dress.

The men wear leather or cloth pants under big, white wool trousers; red wool jackets; and sometimes sleeveless outer garments made of leather and felt. Both men and women made of leather and felt. Both men and women wear turquoise earrings. The most distinctive part of the Brokpa outfit, however, is the unique felt hat.

In the evening, drive to Trashigang for overnight.

Paro Dzong 13



ITINERARY CONTINUED

"Monks in Bhutan live simple lives, dedicating themselves to meditation, study, and serving their communities. They rise early, often at 4:30 in the morning, to begin their daily prayers and rituals."



DAY 7 6 April: Saty - Trashigang to Mongar

After breakfast, drive to monger. The drive is about 3 to 4 hours including stops to take pictures of the weavers at Yadi village. Most of the women have their handlooms at the entrances of their houses. After Yadi, you will see numerous switchbacks roads until you reach Sherichu (600m) Bridge.

After lunch, visit Kadam temple. This temple is very different from the other temples you have visited. This temple is for the Tsam-pas, which means 'the mediators'. Most of the practitioners have long hair that they tie back and wear red ghos (traditional attire) down to the ankles. It has a small room with lots of giant prayer wheels, turned by many old men and women as they pray.

Overnight in Mongar.

DAY 8 7 April: Excursion to Lhuntse

After breakfast, drive to Lhuntse. The drive from Mongar to Lhuntse is about 2.30 hours. Lhuntse is culturally part of eastern Bhutan. This region is renowned as a textile producing region and as the ancestral homeland of the Bhutanese royal family.

Khoma Village; his village is located about two hours walk from the Dzong. It is a pleasant journey taking you over gentle slopes amongst pine trees. This village is known throughout the country for its signature woven textile, the Kishuthara. The women sit in a row of makeshift textile cottage, weaving intricate designs and patterns. Picking up a Kishuthara here will be much cheaper than buying it from one of the handicraft shops in the capital. Kishuthara is considered one of the Bhutanese woman's most desired choice and is worn in every special festive occasion like Tshechus and Wangs. It is also one of the alternative sources of income for some of the farmers during off winter season.

DAY 9 8 April: Mongar to Bumthang

Today you drive almost 7 to 8 hours. The drive is so beautiful, though, that you might forget how long you have been driving. En route, stop at Sengor village.

Your drive will take you through Thrumshing La National Park which is the residence of red pandas. You will come across Thrumshing La (3750m), which is the second highest pass in the country, where there are 40 species of rhododendron. In between, you will drive through a sheer drop with a beautiful waterfall at Namling Brag (cliff) and pass through villages. You will see some different flora and fauna on this drive.

Overnight in Bumthang.







DAY 10 | 9 April: Bumthang

After breakfast, explore Bumthang valley. Visit Jakar dzong and take pictures of monks.

Overnight in Bumthang.

DAY 11 | 10 April: Bumthang to Paro to Thimphu

After breakfast, you will fly from Bumthang to Paro. Your guide will pick you up and drive to Thimphu. Relaxing and explore Thimphu town.

Overnight in Thimphu.

DAY 12 | 11 April: Thimphu

Drive to Dochu La in the early morning to see the snowcapped mountains. Your drive takes you through the beautiful Dochu La (pass) with 108 stupas built by the Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo in 2004. The pass is at about 3,150m, and covered by the colourful prayer flags. On a clear day you will see snow-capped mountains.

After breakfast, drive back to Thimphu and visit Buddha Point: This gigantic statue of the Buddha under construction at Kuensel Phodrang overlooking Thimphu is 51.5 meters tall, and is the 17th tallest Buddha statue in the world. The tallest Buddha in the world is the Spring Temple Buddha in China, at about 128 meters tall. The 20 million USD statue, once completed, will be a major attraction for Buddhists. This place has a fantastic view of Thimphu city.

After lunch, visit the memorial chortan to take pictures of old people circumambulating the chortan and giant prayer wheels.

Dechenphodrang monastery to take pictures of novices. There are about 450 monks in this monastery studying Buddhism.

Overnight in Thimphu.

DAY 13 | 12 April: Thimphu - Paro

After an early breakfast, drive to Paro and hike to the famous Tiger's Nest. Taktshang monastery was built about 9,000 feet up on a sheer cliff. It is said that Guru Rimpoche flew to the site of the monastery riding on the back of a tigress to subdue the local demon Sengay Samdrup. After Guru subdued the demon, he meditated in a cave, which has become a holy place (ney). Unfortunately, a fire gutted the monastery on 19 April 1998, but it has been restored to its original shape. The hike takes about 5 hours round trip. All Bhutanese dream of visiting this place.

DAY 14 | 13 April: Paro to Bangkok or Kathmandu

Your guides and drivers will drive you to the airport for your departure. In our culture we don't have a word for "goodbye" so we like to say "Lok Jay Gay", which means "See you again". Have a safe flight.

Tashi Delek!!!



PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

"A Dzong is a complex of fortified building which served as a principal seat of Buddhist school. They are usually built to be strategic footholds for gaining influence of particular Buddhist schools and controlling over the region under the power of the schools."



Central to this unforgettable tour is YOU. Through Ignacio's guidance, you'll not only learn the secrets of the masters, but you'll take your photography skills to the next level and leave your Central Asia adventure with a collection of powerful, moving photographs that you'll share with pride.

Some of the photography skills you'll learn throughout the tour include:

- How to photograph animals in the wild, shutter speed/ISO/Focus
- The art of composition, capture the moment what makes a good picture
- Post-processing techniques tips and tricks
- Creative post-processing for those of you who are keen to break the rules
- How to work with light
- Optimising your equipment and filters
- Pre-visualisation and the creative process
- The unique techniques of landscape photography, wildlife photography, portrait photography, while also touching on aerial, black and white, and night photography
- Ignacio will also be there to offer one-on-one guidance on other specific skills you'd personally like to master.

Camera Skills

The best way to learn the art of photography is by taking photos. So Ignacio will be by your side in the field sharing insight and guidance as you shoot. Helping you create great photos as you shoot. No matter your skill level or equipment, you'll learn the craft with an award-winning master.

The Creative Process

Throughout the tour, you'll also have the opportunity to process and enhance your images using Lightroom, Photoshop, Capture One and other editing software. Learning first-hand how to create photographs that tell a story, evoke emotion and ultimately help you find your unique style and personality as an artist.

Critique Session

Should you dream of entering competitions, or simply wish to push yourself as a photographer, critique sessions are an invaluable part of the learning process. Ignacio will offer one-on-one critique sessions during the tour. Providing constructive evaluation and feedback supported by recommendations and tips through the eyes of a professional. While having your work critiqued can feel overwhelming at first, this is one of the most powerful ways to improve your skills as a photographer.

Level of photography

All skills levels are welcome. Whether you're a beginner or expert, the tour is designed to cover all aspects of image capture and post processing as it applies to where you are on your photography journey. As for equipment, we can help you optimise the equipment you chose to use from mobile phone to tablets, compact camera to digital SLR cameras.

Physical considerations

Our guides will take us to a range of different locations most of which involve some short walks. Sometimes, we may take longer walks, but all excursions are optional and if you are tired, you can always sleep in and relax in the homestays/hotels. This expedition does not require high altitude travel but participants should be in good general health, however, there is not much strenuous walking/trekking involved. Temperatures can range drastically in the mountains from day to night. Packing layers is essential.



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THE TEAM



IGNACIO PALACIOS

When it comes to photography and travel, few can rival Ignacio Palacios' experience, skill, and passion. A third-generation photographer, Ignacio has been honoured with over 100 prestigious photography prizes and awards from around the world and has travelled to over 100 countries in his 25 years career. It's little wonder he's developed a reputation as a leading photographer in the fields of travel, landscape, and nature photography.

Born in Spain, Ignacio now calls Sydney, Australia home – though his unmistakable Spanish spirit continues to influence his work and define his signature style.

Combining his love of travel and photography has proved a powerful combination, and today Ignacio leads some of the world's best photography tours to incredible destinations around the world. As an AIPP double Master of Photography, Ignacio shares his insight, experience, and technique with his clients to help them find their own success and joy on their photographic journey.

"I hope that through my images and my tours, I can open people's eyes to the incredible world we live in. I want to give my guests both travel and photographic experience. We are privileged to have such a beautiful planet and it's our responsibility to respect, cherish and protect it."

Ignacio's distinct, award-winning style can be defined by his mastery of composition, colour, and light. With his minimalistic style and unique ability to connect with his audience through storytelling through his images, Ignacio invites his audience to experience the subject not as how he captured it, but how he experienced it, evoking an emotional connection between the viewer, subject and artist.

Photography and travel will always be Ignacio's passion, and he is dedicated to helping others ignite their passion too.

"I believe that photography can be way of change and I feel an obligation and responsibility to share what I have captured and created with my camera in the hope that I can not only inspire people to take better images but to care for the environment."

Ignacio Palacios

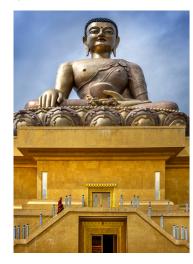
Spanish Professional Photography Awards (AFP) – Landscape Winner (LUX Gold) 2014 Australian Photographic Prize - Category Winner - Scenic, Travel 2023 Australian Photographic Prize - Category Finalist - Wildlife 2023 APPA AIPP Landscape Photographer of the Year - Runner-Up 2016 APPA AIPP Creative Photographer of the Year – Runner-Up 2019 Head On Landscape Prize - Exhibited Finalist 2013, 2016, 2018, Semifinalist 2019, 2023 Head On Portrait Prize - Exhibited Semifinalist 2023 NSW AIPP Professional Photographer of the Year - Overall Winner 2018 NSW AIPP Professional Travel Photographer of the Year – Winner 2017, 2018, 2019 NSW AIPP Professional Nature Photographer of the Year – Winner 2016, 2017/Finalist 2018, 2019 NSW AIPP Professional Landscape Photographer of the Year - Finalist 2014, 2016 2017/Winner 2018 NSW Epson Signature Worthy Award – Winner 2017 APPA AIPP Photographic Book of the Year – Finalist 2018, 2019 ANZANG Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the year – Finalist 2013 National Geographic Travel Contest – Finalist and Editors choice 2013 Travel Photographer of the Year - Finalist (TPOTY) 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021 Travel Photographer of the Year - Category Winner and Portfolio Runner-Up 2019, Category Runner-Up 2021 TPOTY - Highly Commended 2014, 2015, Commended 2018, 2 x Special Mentions 2019 International Landscape Photographer of the Year – Category Winner 2016, 2018, 2019 EPSON Pano Awards Open Competition - Top 50: 2016, 2017, 2018 IPA (International Photography Awards) – Finalist 2009, Honorable Mention 2009, 2013, 2015, 2019 International Loupe Awards - Runner up 2010, Finalist 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013 Wildlife Photographer of the Year - Final Round 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019 GDT European Nature Photographer of the Year - Finalist 2017 MontPhoto Landscape – Finalist 2020 Eyes on Asia Awards – Runner Up 2013 FOCUS Awards - Image of the Year 2016, 2018



CHECKLIST

"My strongest motivation is to create. I want to create beautiful images of natural subjects that can inspire others and the joy comes from sharing those incredible moments."

Ignacio Palacios



Camera equipment

- DSLR. To bring a couple of bodies is always recommended. (check your baggage allowance with your airline/travel agent)
- Tripod with quick release plate
- Standard zoom, wide angle and telephoto lense
- Plenty of batteries and a couple of chargers
- Shutter cable release
- Polarising filter and ND filters
- Laptop computer with Photoshop and Lightroom and/or Capture One
- External backup drives (SSD recommended) and memory cards for storage.

We recommend to shrink-wrap your baggage at your departure airport. Ensure your telephoto lenses are packed in protective packs designed for such lenses. We also recommend that you pack your camera equipment as your hand luggage as much as possible so that if the checked-in baggage is lost or delayed at least you can start photographing as soon as you arrive.

Note: please contact me if you want to discuss equipment for this trip.

What to bring, clothing and other

Our accommodation is clean and comfortable with all bedding and towels provided. In terms of clothing you'll obviously need plenty of warm and weatherproof clothing. The following are very much recommended: A good pair of strong waterproof warm walking boots and ideally those offering some thermal lining or maybe even a pair of thermal overshoes such as those made by Neos to go over your walking boots. Keeping warm feet, hands and head should be your priorities. Good waterproof over trousers (lined ones are best as they keep you warmer especially with a normal pair of trousers and some thermal leggings underneath as well).

For the top half it's very much a question of having several layers – like a thermal type vest, t-shirt, thin jumper, fleece and then a waterproof down coat that is built for keeping out the wind chill. You'll know your own cold thresholds but it really is a question of build it up in layers.

- Hiking boots (well-worn in) and good socks – Gore-Tex – mandatory
- · Gloves and hat mandatory
- Water bottle or camel pack
- Hat, gloves (thin and thick), sunscreen, insect repellent
- Sunglasses
- Raincoat/waterproof jacket/ wind jacket and warm jumper – mandatory
- Head torch mandatory
- Alarm clock/smart phone.

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to cancel this workshop. *In the event of this happening, all* payments received will be refunded but participants shall have no further claim against IP Travel Photography arising from such cancellation. Any such refund will not include payments for any bookings for other services made in addition to the itinerary outlined above. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit. It is recommended that the cancellation insurance covers for the whole cost of the trip.

To reserve your place for 2026 or to make an enquiry, please email ignacio@ iptravelphotography.com.au



TERMS AND CONDITIONS



WORKSHOP DATES AND PRICES

Tour dates: 31 March - 13 April 2026

The tour commences in **Paro** and ends in **Paro**

Standard cost: **US\$13,490** per person; Optional single supplement: **US\$1,390**

Maximum 8 participants

A deposit of **US\$2,000** is required when you book the workshop

Terms of payment

- A deposit of US\$2,000 must be paid to secure your place.
 The deposit is non-refundable unless you can sell your place to someone else
- Note: the workshop is quoted in US\$. To calculate the rate in AUD\$, the currency exchange rate will be obtained from the Westpac website at the time of transferring the deposit and balance.
- The online Registration Form must be filled in and signed by each participant at the time of paying the first deposit.
 Participation will be declined otherwise
- The remaining balance must be paid on or before

1 November 2025

- Bookings will be accepted strictly in the order they are received
- Important: the workshop requires a minimum of 4 participants to run so please don't book your flights until the trip has been confirmed.

What's included

- Full 14 days (13 nights) in Bhutan
- Internal flights from Paro to Trashigang and from Bumthang to Paro
- All meals
- All excursions
- Local English-speaking guide throughout the tour
- All local taxes
- Entrance fees in the parks/reserves.

What's not included

- Flights to/from Paro
- Overnight accommodation prior to and following the tour
- Travel, medical and cancellation insurance. Please note that travel insurance with emergency evacuation is mandatory as a condition of booking
- Visas (if required)
- Camera/Equipment Insurance
- Optional personal activities
- Alcohol consumption, extra beverages and souvenirs purchased during the tour
- Any other personal expenses, laundry etc.
- Tips/gratuities. Note on tips: gratuities for local guides, hotel staff, butlers etc. are not included on this tour. However, if you feel that any staff has given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them. We emphasize that such tips should be at your own discretion and based solely on the level of your service satisfaction.

Cancellation Policy

A written notice of any cancellation must be received by you at which time the following cancellation fees will apply:

- If cancelled between
 1 November 2025 and 1 January
 2026, 60% cancellation fee
- If cancelled between 2 January 2026 and before departure, 100% cancellation fee
- Failure to pay by the due dates will be considered a cancellation of the booking and fees paid will be non-refundable

- Bookings made after
 1 November 2025 must be paid in full
- No refunds will be made for unused portions of the workshop. The photography workshop is sold as a land package (no airfares included)
- Cancellation fees are not transferable.

Camera gear

There is really no limit to what camera gear you take. Check with your airline about weight restrictions. Whatever level of camera equipment you have, we will help to ensure you get the most out of it. Check the camera equipment checklist at the end of the brochure but if you want to discuss specific equipment for this trip, contact me.

Fitness and health considerations

Sometimes participants will be required to walk on uneven terrain or tracks and hiking. A basic level of walking fitness will help, but this tour is not a hiking tour or a trekking tour so nothing extreme will be required. If you have concerns about your own capabilities or health, please check with your doctor before booking a place. By signing the Registration Form, you guarantee that to the best of your knowledge, you do not have any physical or other disability that could create a risk for you or other tour participants. Once a booking has been accepted by IP Travel Photography, medical circumstances will not

be accepted as an exemption to the Cancellation Policy above.

Within the Registration Form, please indicate any health issues, allergies or dietary requirements. IP Travel Photography does not assume any responsibility or liability for medical care or special dietary requirements. If a participant becomes ill during the workshop, IP Travel Photography reserves the right to continue the tour for the benefit of the rest of the participants. IP Travel Photography will make every effort to assist you whilst trying to minimize disruption of the workshop for other participants.

Visas

A VALID PASSPORT is essential to all international travel; please check the expiry date of your passport, and ensure you have a sufficient number of blank pages for Visas, entry/exit stamps etc. for the entire intended duration of travel.

Most tourists must travel on a pre-planned, prepaid, guided package tour or custom designed travel program. Everyone traveling to Bhutan requires to obtain a visa in advance, except for passport holders from India, Bangladesh and the Maldives.

For other passport holders, visas cost of about US\$50. The visas must be applied and paid for in advance, from registered tour operators, at the same time as booking the rest of your trip. We will organise and support this with our travel agent in Bhutan.

Rights

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to:

- Substitute hotels/ accommodation
- Make changes in the itinerary or transport if required due to changes in airline schedules, or when necessary. We may be forced to change or alter the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware, however, that we will attempt to stick as close to the original program as possible
- Cancel the workshop prior to departure, in which case a full refund of all payments received will be given. If such an event occurred, IP Travel Photography will not be responsible for any other expenses such as nonrefundable air fares, visa fees and other related expenses. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit
- Substitute the tour leader and guest photographer as originally specified, in which case this substitution will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Run the photography workshop without the guest photographer if the group size is less than 6 participants. This will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Accept or refuse any person as a participant in the workshop

- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to adverse currency exchange fluctuations, airline schedule changes, fuel and tax price charges
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to major unforeseen increases in expedition related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

Liability

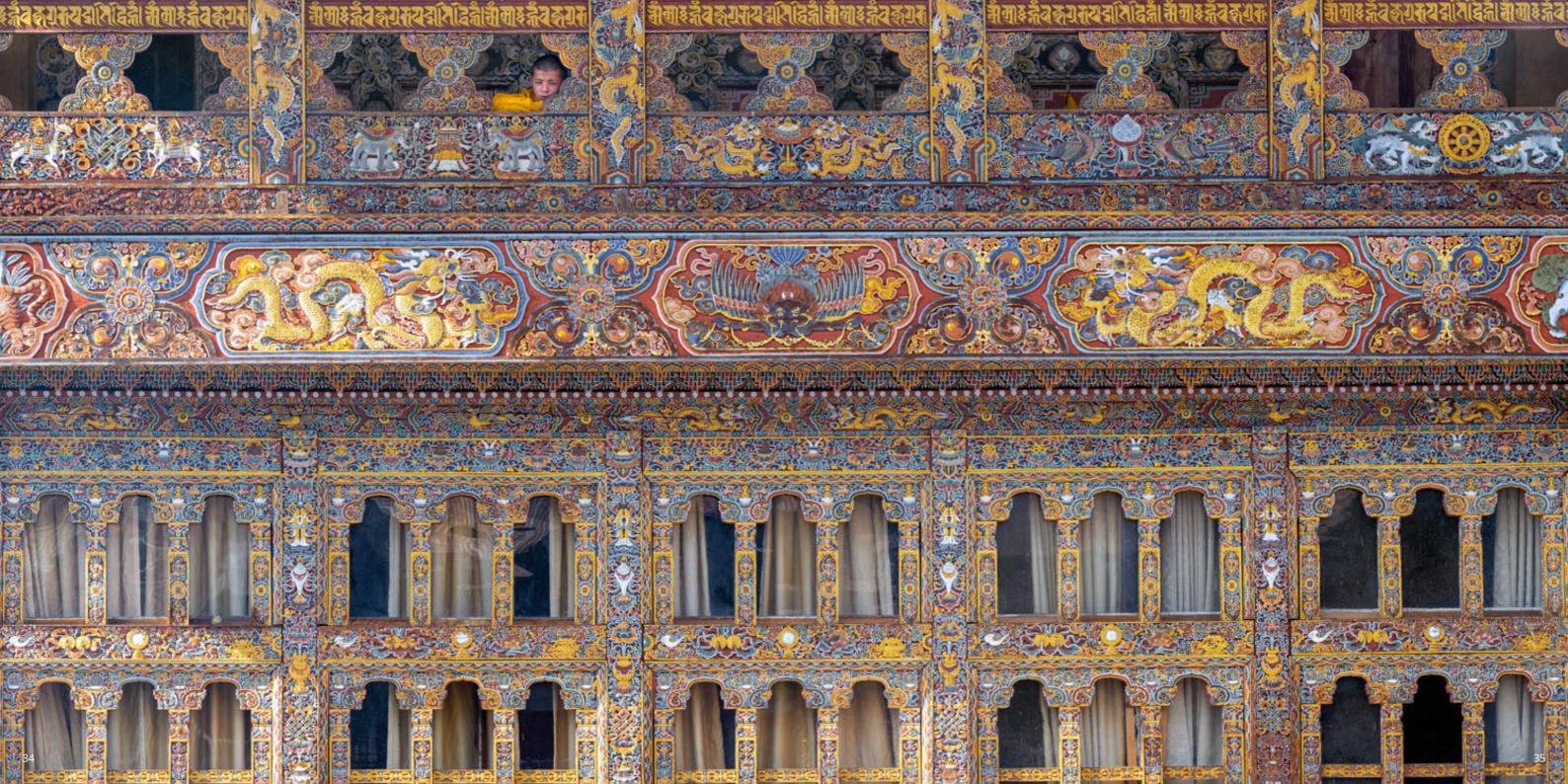
The operation of the workshop is at the sole discretion of Ignacio Palacios (IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd), having in mind the wellbeing and interests of all participants and the safe and sensible operation of the program as specified within this itinerary IP Travel Photography does not accept any liability for the acts, omissions or default, whether negligent or otherwise of third party providers IP Travel Photography disclaims liability for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or trouble caused by force majeure or any other event which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on IP Travel Photography's part.

IP Travel Photography

IP Travel Photography is an ASIC business name with Australian Business Number 16578586693 and registered in Australia under the Business Names Registration Act 2011. IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd (Ignacio Palacios) will guide and provide photography tuition to all participants during the tour. IP Travel Photography is not a travel agent or travel service provider.

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TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE FOR 2026 OR TO MAKE AN ENQUIRY, PLEASE EMAIL IGNACIO@IPTRAVELPHOTOGRAPHY.COM.AU



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