



*Inspiring travel and photography around the world*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT GTP PHOTO TOURS

### 1. How is a photo tour different from any other tour?

Photo tours are formatted to enable photographers to get better pictures. It's all about light and timing. Photo tours tend to start earlier in the day, travel or rest in the middle of the day, and photograph again in the late afternoon and evening. This tends to provide better light for photography and avoids the peak crowds from other tours. Photo tours also give photographers more time to take pictures.

### 2. How do Global Travel Photography (GTP) tours differ from other photo tours?

GTP tours are designed for people that enjoy soft adventure as well as photography. These tours include activities that enable you to take pictures from different vantage points. Most of the tours include some hiking to put you at the best spot for a photo. Rafting, paragliding, hot air ballooning and elephant trekking are examples of other activities that can be included.

### 3. How are destinations chosen?

GTP chooses destinations in Asia, Africa and South America that offer you the best combination of photographic appeal, accessibility and activities. Photography is the primary goal so countries and itineraries are chosen that will maximize opportunities to capture great images. Accessibility is important too because you don't want to spend all your time traveling from place to place. You want to be taking pictures every day of the tour. GTP also looks for destinations that offer activities like hiking, rafting or balloon flights that enable you to have fun while taking pictures.

### 4. What is the photography focused on?

Many photo tours are focused on one type of photography like landscapes or wildlife but GTP tours offer a chance to photograph a wide variety of scenes. All tours include plenty of landscapes and some tours include a lot of wildlife too but the focus is on experiencing new places and cultures so a lot of your images will include local people and their environment.

### 5. Are GTP tours suitable for children?

GTP tours do not accommodate small children but teenagers with a serious interest in photography are welcome.

### 6. Are GTP tours suitable for non-photographers?

GTP conducts one tour per year that is formatted for photographers and non-photographer companions to accommodate people that want to travel with someone that does not share their passion for photography. Non-photographers are welcome on other tours but may be bored at times waiting on photographers.

### 7. What level of photography experience do I need?

Any level of photography experience is fine and you can use any type of photography equipment. However, GTP can help you more if you bring a digital SLR camera that you are familiar with.

### 8. What photography skills can I expect to learn?

GTP tours focus on travel photography and the skills needed to take great pictures when travelling to unfamiliar places. You will learn how to make the best use of available light, how to create your own photo opportunities and how to enhance scenes by adding or subtracting things. You will also learn how to prepare for travelling with your camera and how to prepare for photography while traveling.

### 9. How many people go on each tour?

GTP tours are limited to eight participants to provide the best combination of travelling flexibility and photo opportunities for you. Smaller vehicles are used that can go places big busses can't. You will be able to approach people and wildlife that big groups can't hope to see. This provides a wider choice of accommodations too.

### 10. What types of transportation are used on the tours?

GTP's goal is to maximize the amount of time you have to take pictures so you will typically fly from one destination to another when flights are available. Small busses or vans are used to transport people locally and occasionally for longer distances. Local forms of transportation such as boats, safari vehicles, wagon carts, rickshaws and tuk tuks are often used to provide you with an added experience.

### 11. What types of accommodations are used on the tours?

Accommodations are selected based on location, photographic appeal and comfort. With a small group GTP can use small hotels and lodges that are strategically located near photogenic sites. Some of the properties are photogenic themselves. Most properties will provide a basic level of comfort equivalent to a three star hotel but occasionally 'best available' it is a bit more rustic. Four and five star hotels are used in larger cities where available.

### 12. What do we eat and drink on the tours?

A buffet breakfast is usually served at your hotel. Coffee, tea and juice are served along with fruit and bread or pastries. Eggs are usually made to order. Cereal and yogurt are available sometimes. Lunch is normally made from cooked meat, rice, pasta and/or vegetables. Fruit is generally offered too. Dinner is usually the big meal of the day and includes meat, vegetables, bread, potatoes, rice and or pasta. The common theme is food that is cooked or fruit that was peeled. Bottled water is always available and sodas and alcoholic drinks are usually available at lunch and dinner.

### 13. What is included in the tour price?

GTP has included as many of the trip expenses as possible in the tour price. You don't like to be nickel and dimed and you certainly don't want surprises. The tour prices include:

- A professional photography guide and trip leader from the US
- English speaking guide(s) from the country we are touring
- All accommodations during the tour
- All meals during the tour
- All transportation during the tour including motor vehicles and planes
- All admission fees and activities listed in the itinerary
- **All tips to everyone including guides, trip leader, drivers, waiters, porters and bellhops**

### 14. What is not included in the tour price?

The expenses that are left out of the tour price are those expenses that vary dramatically among the participants including:

- International airfare from your home to the city that the tour starts in
- Accommodations or meals en route to and from the city that the tour starts and ends in
- Trip insurance
- Excess baggage charges
- Sodas and alcoholic beverages
- Hotel services such as phone, Internet, laundry or massage
- Passport and visa fees
- Other personal expenses such as souvenirs

### 15. Why are GTP tours more expensive than some other tours?

GTP tours include many expenses that other tours leave out. For example, GTP tours include ALL meals while others typically do not. They also include ALL tips so you don't need to worry about who to tip or how much. For trips like these, that amounts to hundreds of dollars per person. Finally, they include the cost of all activities listed in the itinerary such as hot air balloon rides or rafting trips. Most tours offer these as optional expenses. When you identify all the costs associated with a tour, you will find that GTP tours are very competitive.

### 16. How strenuous are GTP tours?

The trip will be physically demanding at times so you should be physically fit. You do not need to be an athlete but you should be able to walk for up to 6 hours (with many rest stops) carrying your camera equipment. Most of the areas that we travel to do not accommodate any types of handicaps.

### 17. What do I need to do to physically prepare for a GTP tour?

GTP recommends that you consult a physician before the trip to ensure that you are healthy enough for this type of trip and to get up to date on recommended vaccines. Naturally, you will be able to opt out of any of the activities if you wish but if you want to enjoy all the adventurous activities on these trips, you should participate in an active exercise regime before the trip.

### 18. What other preparations are needed?

You must have a passport and, in some cases, a visa. You must ensure that both are current before the tour begins. You should also purchase travel and liability insurance to meet your own needs. Additionally, you will need to purchase a round trip plane ticket for the flight from your hometown to the city where our tour begins and ends. Detailed information about what to bring and how to pack will be provided by GTP when you register for the tour.