

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a rugged, unpaved mountain road winding through a valley. The road is made of gravel and dirt, and the surrounding landscape consists of steep, rocky hillsides with patches of green grass and shrubs. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.The logo for The Royal Photographic Society (RPS) is located in the top left corner. It features the word "THE" in a small, black, sans-serif font, followed by "RPS" in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below "RPS" is the text "ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a white background.

THE RPS
ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

TRAVEL

Roads Less Travelled

11-12 October 2025

**Woodland Grange Conference Centre
Royal Leamington Spa**

A mix of inspiring speakers and activities has been brought together to mark the 35th anniversary of the formation of the RPS Travel Group. At a time when journeying to 'off the beaten track' places was much less easy than it is now, one of the Group's primary purposes was to enable travel to unusual destinations. We do that much more independently now and perhaps put more emphasis on sharing the stories of our travels.

This weekend brings together a range of speakers and skills that will help each of us move forward on our photographic journey and have fun following our chosen paths. Their details and web site URLs are on the following pages.

Ash Bhardwaj

Peter Brisley

Nat Coalson

Sue O'Connell

Leigh Preston

Chris Roche

and **Prof. Lindsay Stringer**

will each share their unique 'take' on 'Roads Less Travelled' whether near to home or further afield; whether about photographic style or skill or about the effect of our travel on the places we visit and its importance to communities about whose cultures we learn.

There will also be opportunities to share your ideas both formally and informally and plenty of time to get to know other participants. There will be representatives from a small number of photographic suppliers to demonstrate their products and the popular Bring a Print competition with a prize awarded by Fotospeed.

Royal Leamington Spa is easy to reach by rail, road and air and is very near to the historic heart of England, just a short distance from Stratford-upon-Avon and Warwick. If you are not based in the UK and are planning to come, it would be easy to put a programme together for a longer stay.



Ash Bhardwaj is an award-winning journalist, broadcaster, and author, whose work sits at the intersection of travel, culture, and current affairs. He has reported from over 50 countries for outlets including BBC Radio 4, The World Service, The Telegraph, Times, Guardian, Condé Nast Traveller, and Huffington Post, and he appears as a travel expert on BBC One's Morning Live, Channel 5 and Sky News.

Ash wrote & presented the BBC Radio 4 documentaries How Ukraine Made Us Care & NATO's Newest Member and appeared on Sky News' The Great Debate about Ukraine. He produces and presents The First Mile and The Human Advantage podcasts, hosts The Moth storytelling events in London, and delivers workshops & keynote talks on leadership, influence, career strategy, storytelling, and motivation.

Ash's debut book, Why We Travel: A Journey Into Human Motivation was recently awarded Best Travel Book of 2024 by The Independent. He regularly delivers talks and workshops around the themes of the book



Peter Brisley ARPS EFIAP DPAGB BPE2*

Extensive travelling over the past twenty years to countries including Libya, Ethiopia, Japan and Mongolia has provided Peter with a wide range of subject matter for his graphic and 'fine art' approach to photography. People, architectural details, landscapes, botanical subjects, and abstracts are all sources for stand-alone images or small panels of work. From darkroom to Lightroom, his special passion is still for monochrome images.

A Fotospeed Ambassador, Peter's work has been accepted into PAGB Masters of Print and the London Salon and has appeared in periodicals including National Geographic Traveller and Black and White Photography. It has also featured in a number of exhibitions, both joint and solo, venues including the Mall Galleries, London and RPS headquarters.

Peter has given print presentations throughout the UK. He is an accredited PAGB judge, a member of the Associate panel of the WPF, and an invited judge for the Irish National Inter-club championship.



Nat Coalson ARPS

Owner of Photiq Gallery in Royal Leamington Spa, Nat Coalson is an internationally recognised artist and trainer who has spent his entire adult life working in the visual arts. Since 2003 he has focused on the photographic arts, initially with a passion for landscape and nature photography, evolving into pure abstraction. He has been teaching all aspects of photography and digital imaging for several decades and loves coaching photographers to perfect their craft.

He collaborates with a number of international companies. On this occasion his presentation is sponsored in part by Epson who will also be represented at the weekend.



Sue O'Connell FIPF MPSA EFIAP/d3 DPAGB ABPE

Sue has been a keen traveller all her life - the further and more remote the better - Colombia, Angola and Bangladesh being recent destinations. She enjoys a wide range of genres including landscapes, documentary, wildlife and abstracts, but above all, loves photographing people.

She regularly enters salons and competitions, finding them a useful touchstone for her work. She is also lucky enough to have won numerous medals as well as having been awarded in "Travel Photographer of the Year" (four times), "Food Photographer of the Year" and "USA Landscape Photographer of the Year".

The print is hugely important for her and she is proud to have been awarded a Gold medal in The London Salon and a special Hahnemuhle prize in PAGB Masters of Print. Her work has also been included in exhibitions at the Royal Geographical Society, RPS House and Photokina Germany.

Between travels Sue is a frequent speaker and judge on the photographic circuit, often teaming up with husband and fellow Fotospeed Ambassador, Peter Brisley. She is a member of the WPF Associateship panel, and this year was honoured to be a selector for Masters of Print. She also chairs the WCPF Judge Training team.

Leigh Preston FRPS EFIAP MPAGB



Leigh has been taking pictures for over forty years. His work has been mainly thematic, making images as a series. He has a relatively specific approach to what he chooses to make pictures of, and relies heavily on atmospheric, dramatic lighting and strong storylines to convey an individual style. A lot of his work is monochrome, using both digital and darkroom processes, depending on the 'feel' he wants from the finished print.

Leigh holds two RPS Fellowships, one for pictorial images taken of the mill towns in Lancashire and Yorkshire and the other for Darkroom printing. He belongs to the ARENA group of photographers and is a member of The London Salon. Leigh has produced several books – 'Shadows of Change' and 'Five Essays' both of which depict the various aspects of his photography as outlined above; and most recently Liverpool, a personal narrative accompanied by images spanning across fifty years.



Christopher Roche was born in Quebec, Canada to Irish parents. He has since lived in Africa and several cities around Europe. Dividing his time between working as a filmmaker and a photographer he is now based between London and Bath. He has won many awards internationally and his photographs have been published in international journals, exhibited at Royal Geographical Society in London and at United Nations Office at Geneva. He spent five years photographing ancient faith traditions around the world and has published two photographic books on the theme: 'The Priests and Pilgrims of Ethiopia' and 'Banaras, Holy City'. Having traveled to the West Bank and Ukraine, he is currently researching a photographic project on 'Borders'.



Prof. Lindsay Stringer is Professor in Environment and Development at the University of York and Director of the York Environmental Sustainability Institute, an interdisciplinary research centre that brings together people across disciplines and sectors to tackle some of the world's big sustainability challenges. Lindsay has travelled extensively across all continents both for work and pleasure, and is always trying to find new ways to balance travel with sustainability. Much of her research involves collaborations with local universities and working with farmers in the developing world, so she tends to get off the beaten track to experience the places she visits from a very local perspective. She also does a lot of work with the United Nations, adding a complementary global insight.

Find out more about our speakers at:

Ash: <https://www.ashbhardwaj.com/>
Peter: <https://www.peterbrisley.photography/Public-Galleries>
Nat: <https://natcoalson.com/>
Sue: <https://www.sueoconnell.photography/>
Leigh: <http://www.leighpreston.co.uk/>
Chris: <https://www.chrisrochephotographer.co.uk/>
Lindsay: <https://www.york.ac.uk/anthropocene-biodiversity/news/2025/lindsay-stringer/>

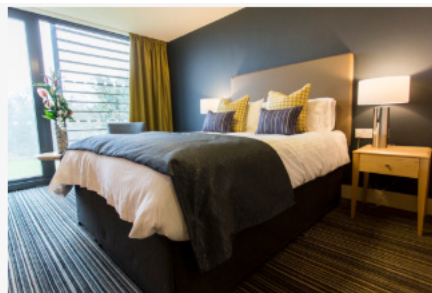
How much will it cost?

Having been able to negotiate a very favourable day rate to include a three course lunch and free-flowing snacks and drinks in these very pleasant surroundings and due to the generosity of our speakers we are able to offer the full two day programme as follows:

Travel Group member (Early Bird - booked before May 18th)	£95
Travel Group member (Regular - booked after May 18th)	£105
RPS member (booked at any time)	£110
Non-RPS member (booked at any time)	£125

Woodland Grange, Leamington Spa

Woodland Grange is an award-winning residential conference venue and hotel, set in 6 acres of beautiful gardens in the Midlands. With 114 bedrooms, it offers a peaceful retreat while being easily accessible via major motorways as well as by rail and air. The venue features a restaurant, bar, gym, and games room, providing the perfect balance of work and relaxation.



Accommodation will be booked directly with the hotel .

Please call 01926 310507 and quote 216231 to obtain the preferential rates.

Full prepayment is required at the time of booking, with cancellation 48 hours prior to arrival.

Single occupancy Bed and Breakfast Package: £102.00 per room

Double Occupancy Bed and Breakfast Package: £117.00 per room

Single Occupancy Dinner, Bed and Breakfast Package: £132.00 per room

Double Occupancy Dinner, Bed and Breakfast Package: £172.00 per room

Rates include VAT and car parking.

PLEASE NOTE THIS RATE IS GUARANTEED ONLY UNTIL JULY 31st. Bookings after that may be at a higher cost and availability cannot be guaranteed.

We very much hope that all participants will have dinner at the hotel on Saturday 11th to enjoy an evening together.

Any queries ? Email travel@rps.org