

Did you come ?

Advertised in the last edition of this newsletter were five planned events:

- the March visit to Granada
- the AGM and Janey Devine's presentation
- the Oxford day featuring the Distinguished Gentlemen's Ride
- the Belfast and Beyond visit in June

All are now successfully completed, each with very positive comments from participants, each initiated by a member of the Group sometimes at the request of other member. You should find information about each either in this newsletter or in the next Travel Log which will be with you soon.

Writing of the Oxford day, David Short says:

'On Sunday, 18th May a group of photographers from the Travel Group met in Oxford for a morning of photography. We were there to photograph an event known as the Distinguished Gentlemen's Ride against the background of the beautiful colleges and buildings of the 'city of dreaming spires'.

The day was suggested and kindly facilitated by group member, John Cavana, who is one of the events official photographers.

The main aim, apart from gentlemen (and ladies) dressed up on their (mostly) vintage motorcycles, is to raise funds and awareness for two charities, namely prostate cancer and mental health.

It is a country and worldwide event and has been held every year since 2012.

This year, 127,000 riders in 108 countries around the world raised over seven and a half million dollars. We all found many photo opportunities and came away with some great images. Thanks, John!'



Credit for all images: David Short ARPS

If you have an idea for an event or opportunity somewhere, please get in touch with David (travelevents@rps.org) so that we can work together to develop it into an opportunity for members of the Group to enjoy together.

Did you come?

The weather in Granada in March was not always what those of us who visited would have wanted it to be: but the day we planned to visit the Alhambra was just right and we wondered what magic Colin Howard (who had suggested that day in his pre-visit notes to us all) had used to enable us to be first in the queue AND have blue skies! However, even on the greyer days the group of eight members and friends found plenty to do and enjoyed both the photography and one another's company. Inevitably, the Alhambra was a major focal point



These images by Yan Bull, a new member of the Group who joined us, demonstrate the difference time of day makes to an image.

And there were some 'hidden' spectaculars, too: the tiny house of Manuel de Falla being in stark contrast to the very gold interior of the church of San Juan de Dios while in both spaces we felt awe of some kind - either at the skill of the artist or that of the composer. Many thanks are due to Colin Howard for being our expert guide to the history and culture of the city while also sharing his photographic expertise.



Photos by Kath Phillips

Are you coming?

Roads Less Travelled

Woodland Grange,
Royal Leamington Spa
October 11-12 2025

The speakers are lined up and ready to bring some inspiring thinking to their presentations, so we hope you have registered to attend this weekend in the heart of England. If you haven't, please do so very soon, especially if you plan to stay at Woodland Grange as the special hotel rate can only be guaranteed until 9th August (maybe they'll stretch a day or two if you get in quickly!).

All the details were in the February Newsletter and are on the website, where details of the speakers bios can be seen.

Our speakers on Saturday 11th October will bring a range of expertise and will provoke a variety of reactions!

Since he agreed to be one of our speakers **Ash Bhardwaj** has begun working on Morning Live for the BBC so you may have come across him there if you haven't seen his book, *Why We Travel*, the 2024 Travel Book of the Year, or watched one of the many documentaries he has been involved in. We will also hear from **Sue O'Connell**, whose travel images regularly feature in national and international competitions and whose recent travels have included Angola, Bangladesh and Colombia; **Nat Coalson** who was the judge of our Annual Competition and is a highly regarded tutor and mentor to photographers through his website and in person will share some tips for producing exhibition worthy images and **Prof. Lindsay Stringer**, will bring us evidence from her own travels of the effect of our travels on the communities we visit.

On Sunday 12th October, the first presentation will be from **Leigh Preston FRPS** bringing his own unique style to mono and travel photography. He will be followed by **Chris Roche** sharing his work documenting worship in a range of cultures and **Peter Brisley** who will share his thinking on the importance of print and the creation of panels of images.

Add to this opportunities to share your work with others through the Bring a Print competition and discussion sessions and the presence of representatives from Epson, Fotospeed and Permaget and you simply can't afford to miss out.

Booking is via the RPS website <https://rps.org/groups/travel> where you can download the details and follow the link to book. Don't forget to book accommodation, too. While that doesn't have to be at Woodland Grange, it would be lovely to have everyone together.

If you live fairly locally and can only manage one day, day tickets are now available via the same link.

MONTHLY COMPETITION

Thanks to the diligence of our co-ordinator and the commitment of our small team of judges, the monthly competition hosted on the Travel Group website offers an opportunity to share your work as a travel photographer. The one thing we ask is that you submit images in the right format which display a sense of place.

Each month a winner is chosen and that image is held on the website with a chance to be selected at the end of the year as the 'Best of the Best' Monthly Competition image for that calendar year.

2025 has seen a bumper crop of images, with a wide range of places and cultures represented. Thanks to all entrants for sharing their images - some very regularly, some occasionally.

Why not make it your habit to enter each month? The closing date is always the last day of the month.

All the relevant pages can be accessed via the link on rps.org/groups/travel



Congratulations to Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell for producing July's winner

Justin Cliffe commented:

An excellent environmental portrait... The lighting is lovely, presumably just coming through the door to the left of the woman who, fortuitously, has turned to look at the photographer, thereby allowing the light to catch her face and give us a connection to her. Exposure has been handled well whilst the colours all tone nicely together. Just one suggestion, she's quite small in terms of frame (go to the website to see his suggestion)

May's winner was from Jo Court
You can see Victor Wong, the adjudicator's comments in full on the website. This is a summary:

I really like this photo with strong visual and compositional qualities. The composition is simple but effective....

I also love the colour harmony here:

The way that all the subjects' eyes are gazing directly at the camera creates a strong connection, making me feel engaged and curious about the scene. The relaxed posture of both the herder and the camels enhances the storytelling. This image captures an authentic moment with thoughtful composition and striking colours...



COLLABORATIONS

The Travel Group committee is always on the lookout for additional benefits for our members. This year we are particularly pleased to have begun to work with Bradt Guides and the first benefit for anyone interested in South America is the opportunity to attend the Latin America Festival, details of which are below.

Many Group members refer to Bradt Guides as their 'go-to' travel companions. Watch out for further collaboration in the future.

Join us at Bradt's Latin America Travel Festival.

This full day of inspirational talks and tips will include a photography masterclass by Nori Jemil, author of *The Travel Photographer's Way*. Among the other travel experts at the event will be stars from *Race Across the World* and the director Bruce Parry's *Tribe: The Waimaha*. It promises to be a great day out for anyone planning a trip or interested in travel to Latin America, and best of all RPS members can claim £5 off the ticket price! Just enter code RPS5 at checkout.

Where: Royal Geographical Society, South Kensington

When: Saturday 8th November, 10.00-4.30

More info & tickets: bradtguides.com/events



OTHER COMPETITIONS

Recognising the success that a number of our members have had in Travel Photography competitions, here's a little jog to the memory to help you achieve your ambition this year:

This year's JRNY magazine Travel Photography competition closes on 18th August.

Details are at: <https://jrnymag.com/photo-comp/>

The Travel Photographer of the Year is now open

Details are at <https://www.tpoty.com/tpoty-2025-awards/key-dates-2025/>

If you know of a competition we've missed please add the details in a post of the Group's Facebook page.

PROPOSED VISIT TO LAOS AND CAMBODIA

October 2026

RPS Travel Group; Laos and Cambodia 2026
Laos and Cambodia
Photography tour with Paul Sansome

An exciting, adventurous tour, roughly tracking the Mekong River from North to South. We travel through two interesting countries, full of photography opportunities. This promises to be a fascinating tour taking in some of the recognised highlights of each country as well as some hidden gems, rarely visited by Western tourists.

A detailed itinerary can be downloaded from
<https://rps.org/groups/travel/laos-and-cambodia-2026/>

Maximum group size: 10 clients

Please note that Paul leads flexible tours based on providing the best photography opportunities and noting the interests of the group.

Itinerary Overview

Day 1 / 15 Oct Arrival Luang Prabang
Day 2-4/16 -18 Oct Luang Prabang
Day 5 / 19 Oct Luang Prabang – Vientiane (train)
Day 6 / 20 Oct Vientiane – Pakse (plane) – Bolaven Plateau
Day 7 / 21 Oct Paksong – Champasak
Day 8 / 22 Oct Champasak – Wat Phou – Khong Island
Day 9 / 23 Oct 4,000 Islands (Khong Island).
Day 10 / 24 Oct Khong Island – Drive to Siem Reap
Day 11 / 25 Oct Siem Reap (Beng Mealea & Koh Ker)
Day 12 / 26 Oct Siem Reap (Tonle Sap Lake)
Day 13 / 27 Oct Siem Reap
Day 14 / 28 Oct Depart

Price

Cost: For 5-7 members £3400, for 8-10 clients £3100.

Maximum group size: 10 clients

Includes

- All transportation and guides
- Entrance fees and permits.
- Accommodation as detailed, or similar
- Breakfasts

Excludes

- International flights
- Tips for guides or drivers
- Personal expenses such as telephone calls, laundry, medical expenses, etc
- Travel Insurance
- Visa fees

If you are interested in joining this tour, please email travelsecretary@rps.org by 31st August so that we can confirm with Paul.

AND BEFORE THEN....



Share and Chat with David Short
Sunday, September 14th at 14.30 BST

The committee would value opinions on the timings of the Share and Chat sessions. Started during COVID, Sunday afternoon was a good time for many, but as things have moved on we are wondering if a weekday evening might be better for members.

Comments from our International members would be particularly welcome.

More information about all of the Group's events and visits can be found via the Travel section of the RPS website. You might find it helpful to bookmark the link: <https://rps.org/groups/travel/> It should also be possible now to search for Group events by using the word 'travel' in the Events section of the website.

If there's anywhere you would like us to visit or where you can help organise an event please email David Short on travelevents@rps.org. Your input will be much appreciated.

HOLD THE DATE : 3-4 October 2026

The date is in the communal diary but, as yet, no venue has been booked. If you know of a conference centre that would meet the Group's needs for a weekend event, please email travel@rps.org with details so that we can investigate various possibilities.

IF YOU MISSED....

any of our online presentations you can find links to them on the website via the link above or via <https://rps.org/groups/travel/recent-travel-group-events/> or on YouTube.

Watch at your leisure and be inspired!!

AND IF YOU FEEL YOU CAN HELP....

Do you feel there are gaps in the Group's provision that you can help fill?
If you do, please email our Chair, Kath Phillips, travel@rps.org

It would be great to be able to speak with you about any ideas you have.
Just email travel@rps.org to start the conversation.