

The Journal of the RPS Travel Group  
Issue 90 | Winter 2023

# TRAVEL LOG



## RPS Travel Group Committee

### Chair

Kathryn Phillips ARPS  
travel@rps.org

### Secretary

John Speller  
travelsecretary@rps.org

### Treasurer

Justin Cliffe ARPS  
traveltreasurer@rps.org

### Digital Communications

Kathryn Phillips ARPS  
travelweb@rps.org

### Competitions Co-ordinator

Sue Hutton ARPS  
travelcompetitions@rps.org

### Trips Co-ordinator

Richard Lewis ARPS  
traveltrips@rps.org

### Travel Log Editor

Patricia Mackey ARPS  
editortravel@rps.org

### Travel Log Co-Editor

Dimitra Salmanidou  
travellog2@rps.org

Susan Stuart

## Travel Log Editorial Team

### Editor

Patricia Mackey ARPS  
editortravel@rps.org

### Co-Editor

Dimitra Salmanidou  
travellog2@rps.org

### Sub-Editor

John Minter  
travelsubeditor@rps.org

# Travel Log



## The Journal of the RPS Travel Group

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## A note from the Editorial Team

Welcome to the Winter 2023 issue of Travel Log.

Thanks to everyone who submitted an article for Travel Log we continue to be able to showcase the photographic talent of Travel Group Members. It is such a privilege to read these stories and it is a hard task to choose the images to accompany them. I know, from reading and editing Travel Log, I have added quite a few new destinations to my wish list of places I want to visit. I was lucky to travel to Mongolia this September. Before my trip, Simon King had shared some of his images taken of this beautiful country. Simon has an article about Mongolia (page 56) in this issue of Travel Log, and by coincidence I had the pleasure of meeting some of the people who feature in his article and photos.

Please keep sending your suggestions for articles and cover images to [editortravel@rps.org](mailto:editortravel@rps.org). We are keen to feature as many of our members as possible.

There is no set format for articles. They can be long (within reason) or short. They can feature a single location or involve multiple trips. They can be about the technical aspects of travel photography or simply be about showcasing amazing images or inspiring locations.

This is the new editorial team's fourth issue of Travel Log. The schedule of future issues is going to change slightly. We will still produce two issues each year, but rather than the first issue of the year being published in May/June this will be moved forward to February/March. The second issue will then move from November/December to August/September. Our new schedule will start from 2024. This means the Editorial Team will not be taking a break between this issue (Issue 90) and Issue 91.

To help with this tighter turn around for the next issue, we would really appreciate receiving your ideas for articles so we can get to work.

Finally, congratulations to Travel Log's co-editor Dimitra on the birth of her baby son Iason.

I hope you enjoy issue 90.

Regards from the  
Travel Log Editor  
Winter 2023



Cover photo by  
Yasser Alaa Mobarak

Monk playing basketball  
in Shechen Monastery in  
Kathmandu, Nepal.



## A note from our Chair



I remember in the years before I was given a 'sneak peek' at the contents of Travel Log, I was always keen to open the envelope when my copy arrived and see where people had been travelling. It's no different now: it's just that I see it first in digital form. I'm still amazed at the variety of places our contributors get to and by the standard of the images they manage to make during their trips. The editorial team do a great job in acquiring input from such a wide range of authors. Thank you! And 'thank you', too, to those who so willingly add to our enjoyment in each edition by submitting articles for inclusion.

Since COVID we have been able to supplement the production of Travel Log with a variety of online presentations and with the Share and Chat sessions bringing members together from all over the world - literally! Despite the differences in, and difficulties of, time zones we have had contributors from Egypt and the USA and members attending from Japan, Myanmar, Turkey, India and a good representation of European countries as well as every part of the UK. I would love to build on this and see our international members working together more so that we share our passion for photography in each other's homeland. Have you noticed where the authors of articles in this edition are based? Could we, perhaps, organise visits in conjunction with one of the overseas Chapters through one of our overseas members? Could we arrange a programme for overseas members visiting the UK?

Speaking to a previous Chair of the Travel Group recently I learnt that the first purpose of the Group when it was established is believed to have been Travel rather than Photography. That makes sense. The easiest way for a photographer to discover the path less travelled even now is to do so with other photographers. That would have been even more so when the Group was formed. As a group, we share those two passions and so are able to share with one another, and more widely, discoveries about the parts of the world we visit. Travel photography is not just about iconic landscapes or buildings, it's not even about people. It is about experience. I was struck by this statement in a blog by Matthew Kirsten ([expertvagabond.com](http://expertvagabond.com)) 'Travel photography is like a time machine, freezing memories from a journey that you can look back on and enjoy for years.' More importantly, for me, though, he added 'Plus it can help others find new inspiration'.

That's the key to good travel photography: it informs and inspires. That is certainly demonstrated in this issue: I hope you enjoy it as much as I have done.

And, finally, CONGRATULATIONS to our editor, Patricia Mackey, whose panel of images of Bangor, N.I. resulted in her being awarded the ARPS in September. Well done!

Kathryn Phillips ARPS  
Chair RPS Travel Group  
[travel@rps.org](mailto:travel@rps.org)

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# Followtheboat

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
Jamie Furlong



**Jamie and his partner Liz have documented their journey on their blog 'Followtheboat' and their YouTube channel has amassed over 60k subscribers. <https://www.youtube.com/@followtheboat>.**

*Jamie and Liz's boat (Esper) at anchor off the Anambas Islands, South China Sea*

## How did you get into being global yacht vlogging people?

After quitting work in my early thirties, I took a break delivering yachts around Europe and eventually across the Atlantic, fulfilling a childhood dream. Since I'd written a diary from a young age it was only natural that I set up a blog, documenting my adventures with words and pictures. I met Liz after delivering a yacht to Antigua, where she was on holiday. She was burnt out from her job in the silk garment industry, commuting to China every month, so when we met we quickly formed a plan to buy a boat and move on to it. Liz embraced the writing side of the blogging but it wasn't until we sailed across the Indian Ocean to Malaysia that we started making weekly videos of our exploits aboard our 43ft sailboat.

Since then, we've been publishing a video every week. Recording, editing, and writing, all the while travelling and fixing boat problems, meant I had little time for photography. Only recently I've made the decision to incorporate more of my photos in our videos, and get back into the habit of taking the stills camera ashore when exploring, rather than the video camera.

## Where have you visited and written about so far?

We spent three years in Turkey before heading south down the Red Sea. This goes against the usual trade-wind route of east-to-west, but it opened us up to countries we hadn't visited. Sudan and Eritrea stand out on the east African coast.

We had to get special permission to stay in Massawa, Eritrea, to witness the 30th anniversary 'Fenkle' celebrations. Eritrea still has many Italian colonial buildings, but they're crumbling and littered with bullet holes from the war of independence.

It was also around this time that Liz, unbeknown to me, started submitting my photographs to the broadsheets and my Asmara market shot was the first photograph I got 'published' by The Sunday Times.



IMAGES: Top row left to right: Shadows on wall Maldives; Squatting men, Udaipur, Rajasthan India; Women at the Taj Mahal, Uttar Pradesh, India  
Bottom: Ernakulam, Kerala, India. Off-camera flash image selected by the Hardcore Street Collective on flickr





*IMAGES: Top: Asmara market, Eritrea published in the Sunday Times  
Bottom: The Duke's Diwan (Old Post Office) and caretaker, Amman, Jordan. This is one of Jamie's favourite travel shots of all time*









IMAGES: Opposite page: Old guy on sewing machine, Delhi, India. This image was commended in the Sony World Photography Low Light Awards  
 This page: Top: Chinese fishing nets, Fort Cochin, Kerala, India; Bottom row left to right: Fishing nets, Satun, Thailand; Tonjan, worker, Satun, Thailand; Wading fishermen, Lombok, Indonesia

My biggest regret is not taking more photographs in this region. Not only had I not fully developed my confidence in photography at this point, but these countries have changed in the last fifteen years. Aden in Yemen is still one of our favourite places where we were privileged to get an insight into local life, like seeing the effects of qat, but as you can imagine it is no longer possible to take the boat there. As it was, we sailed through 'Pirate Alley' at the height of Somalian piracy, with the closest piracy attack happening just 30 miles up the coast from us in Oman.

In India we had been podcasting our adventures and explored it extensively over three years. My photography stepped up a gear too and while travel photography was inevitable I also explored off-camera flash street photography, a la Bruce Gilden.

Up until this point I had only been taking photographs for fun, but Mike Longhurst FRPS, who I had met on the Amateur Photographer forums, came out to visit us in Kerala and he encouraged me to take my photography more seriously. When one of my photographs was commended in the Sony World Photography Awards in the low-light category, my love of low-light street photography was born.

Travel brings interesting experiences. We met a goat herder in Tamil Nadu who sustained an ankle injury in the mountains but couldn't afford the medical costs to get it seen to. He struggled to put food on the table for his family so he came up with the idea that we could 'adopt' his ten-year-old son and take him with us on our journeys so he might have a better future!

We only left India because the boat needed work, which we undertook in the Maldives.

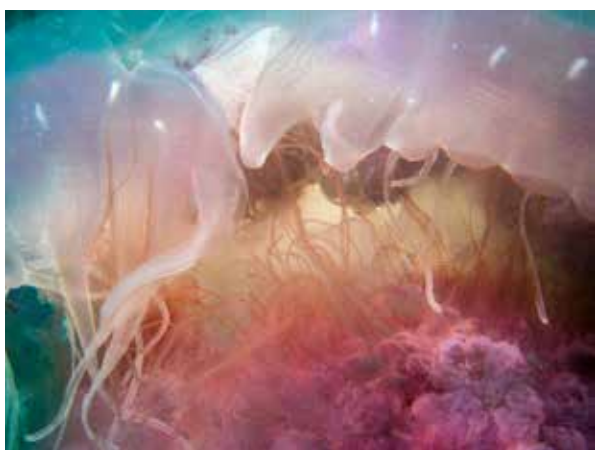
After crossing the Indian Ocean we covered off west-coast Malaysia and Thailand, the Mentawai Islands down the west of Sumatra, Krakatoa, Java, the Riau Islands, Borneo and Kalimantan before our latest trip around the central Indonesian Island of Sulawesi. Everything from Malaysia onwards is covered in our weekly video episodes and is accompanied by blog posts.

### **What have been the highs and lows of your life at sea?**

My favourite times at sea are doing the long crossings under sail, surrounded by nothing but water and the sound of the waves against the hull. Also navigating complicated reef systems keeps the grey matter ticking over, which we enjoy, and being in the Coral Triangle we did a lot of diving and, of course, underwater photography.

The real highlight, however, is taking the dinghy ashore to a remote island and meeting the indigenous people. It's the people who make it for us, with local food coming a close second!

It is often said that cruising is fixing boats in exotic places, and never a truer word was said. Troubleshooting engine failures in remote locations or getting parts made in the industrial area of a foreign town with a language barrier are all part of the experience. Bad weather can make an anchorage not only uncomfortable but dangerous, especially if surrounded by local fishing boats dragging anchor, which has happened many times. Weighing anchor at 2am in 30kn squalls and a 2m swell as a spider boat using a rock as an anchor is bearing down on you is not fun. Living on a boat presents new and exciting adventures and keeps all senses stimulated, but it is not without its problems, some of which can endanger your safety and comfort. Equatorial waters can mean either no wind or fierce squalls, and those squalls often happen at night. I can't remember the last time I had eight hours' sleep.



*IMAGES: This page: Top left: Underwater Jellyfish, South China Sea, Malaysia; Top right: Local, Maldives; Bottom: Injured Goat Herder, Tamil Nadu, India. Opposite page: Taken in natural light in the stairwell of a housing project, Dalit, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.*







IMAGES: This page: Top: Worker's cafe, Jakarta, Indonesia; Bottom: Minibus, Jakarta, Indonesia  
Opposite Page: Top: Morning cow herder shot from Majuli Island Assam, runner-up in the Wanderlust Travel Photography Awards; Column on right top to bottom: Off camera flash, selected for Hardcore Street Collective, flickr, Phuket, Thailand; Off camera flash, Langkawi Night Market, Malaysia; Indian kitchen, Mumbai, India





### **Any really nasty moments crossing vast oceans?**

On our twelve-day crossing of the Indian Ocean, from the Maldives to Langkawi in Malaysia, we lost our autopilot on the second day. This meant hand steering, two hours on, two hours off, without a break. It was physically and emotionally exhausting as we were running with the southwest monsoon and following seas, which frequently hit 4m. You need to concentrate to keep the boat from turning side on to the waves. By the time we arrived in Langkawi I lost so much weight I rediscovered my six-pack, something I'd not seen in years! We did rescue two turtles from a fishing net on that trip though, which lifted our spirits.

On our most recent trip around Sulawesi we broke an engine mount, which was compounded by the fact we were having to motor hundreds of miles in adverse conditions. With wind and currents in the wrong direction and nowhere to anchor, those situations can be testing.

### **Where next?**

Our plan was to sail to the Philippines and then Japan but Covid forced us into lockdown in Borneo, after which our only option was to head south to Indonesia, not north as we had planned, as all surrounding borders were closed. But after 17 years of this lifestyle we are now looking at our options. Whatever we do next it has to involve water, even if it means moving onto a narrow boat on the British canals. This is an attractive proposition because I could set up a small dark room to develop film, something I've not been able to do in the tropics. I'd like to put my photography before vlogging once more.

Blog: <https://followtheboat.com/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@followtheboat/>

Photography: <https://jamiefurlong.com/>



# TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
Yasser Alaa Mobarak





**Yasser Alaa Mobarak LRPS is an award-winning travel photographer and instructor based in Alexandria, Egypt. He has won photography prizes from Travel Photographer of the Year, National Geographic, Sony World Photography Awards, The International Photo Awards, Vienna Photo Award, Egypt Press Photo, International Federation of Photographic Art, Photographic Society of America and Paris Photo Awards.**

**He has also taught travel photography in Delhi College of Photography, Nikon School Egypt, Azerbaijan Photographers Union, Kantipur Film Academy, Jordanian Photographic Society, Chicago Photography Classes and Burwell School of Photography.**

**Yasser has written some useful tips for travel photography.**

## Research

I believe that the step of research in travel photography is as important as the shooting itself.

Research where are you going.

For example, if you plan to travel to Baku, you need to know everything about Baku.

- What are the most famous attractions in Baku?
- What are the less famous attractions in Baku?
- What are the most famous places for photography in Baku?

Contact local photographers in Baku to know about the best places for photographers, not for tourists. This will help you explore new places because in every city you will discover places that have never been photographed before.







## Approaching people

Being a foreign travel photographer means that half of the people you will meet will welcome you and be kind because they appreciate and like foreigners. The other half won't allow you to photograph them because they won't be sure about how you will use their images.

### There are several ways to approach people abroad:

If you know the local language, it will be very easy for you to approach your subject, introduce yourself, explaining why you want to photograph them and how you will use the photos.

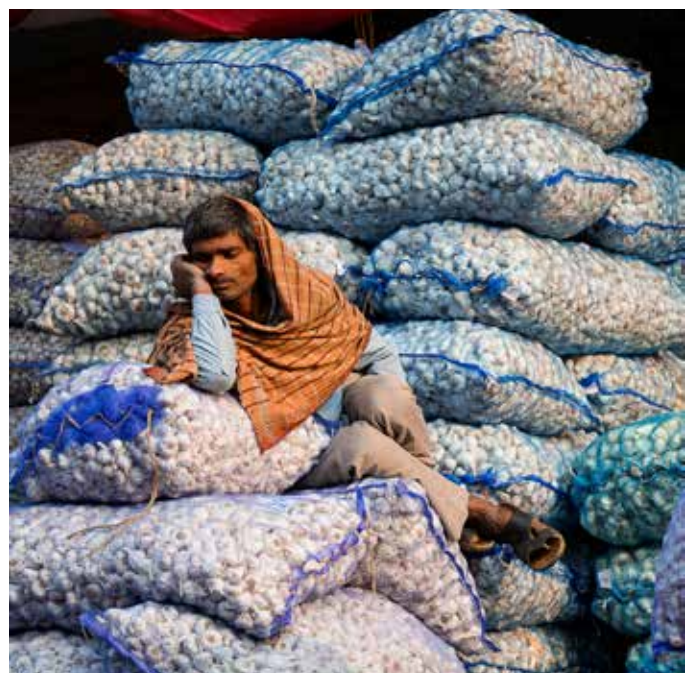
If you only speak English, you can have a guide or translator with you. I don't recommend this because it will attract attention and some may feel that there is something serious in taking their image and they may refuse.

You can shoot candids and never make direct eye contact with your subject. Do not give an alert that you are photographing, and hide yourself behind the camera. I don't prefer this way.

You can shoot without permission in a candid way by making direct eye contact, and smiling at the subject after taking the picture. Show them the image and tell them that they are beautiful and ask them to smile. Your eye contact and smile can be the permission. This is the best way!

When you take portraits, make sure you have some of your images printed to show to your subject to help explain what you are doing and how they will look in your photographs.

Click one image and show them the pictures on your camera. They will be pleased because many people don't know that their image can appear in camera.





## Some Advice

1. Don't wear a photographer's jacket and don't carry too much gear that shows you are a photographer.
2. Wear local clothes to seem local and attract less attention and to show appreciation for the culture of the country.
3. Learn the greeting gesture if they have one.
4. Learn basic words of the language like; hello, please and thank you. People will be happy that you appreciate their language.
5. Enter the culture by eating local food, hearing local music and speak with the local people
6. If you intend to visit the place again, try to print their image and give it to them as a souvenir, it will be a valuable gift.
7. Smaller cameras and lenses will make you more invisible as a photographer and you will look more like an amateur.
8. Remember that when you photograph someone, you take part of his soul (many believe this), so you need to appreciate the people you photograph and be kind to them.
9. Wake up early to take morning shots and avoid crowds of tourists.
10. Visit places twice if possible. The first time you visit you will be impressed and take touristic shots but the second time, you aren't impressed any more and will take shots according to your style.

**Be ethical and respect diversity.**

# The Heralding of Spring in Valencia



WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
Colin Howard FRPS

**Spring in Valencia starts literally with a bang.**



During the two weeks leading up to the 19th March, its streets reverberate to the explosion of fireworks. The daily display (mascleta) at 2pm in front of the town hall sparks the echoing of fireworks throughout the city until well into the night. This serves to focus attention on Las Fallas, the ornate puppet-like monuments simulating theatrical scenes, political satire, or children's stories. Then on the 19th March, despite the many weeks of preparation and their cost, all are burnt to cinders.





The origins of this unique tradition are somewhat obscure. It is thought that local carpenters would celebrate the beginning of spring on the eve of St Joseph's Day by burning wood waste and unwanted timber outside of their workshops. Gradually the waste was turned into puppets as demonstrations of the carpenters' skill. In 1901, the city elders of Valencia formalised this tradition by awarding prizes for the most extravagant and artistic creations. At first the caricatures were made of wood, cloth and wax. Now flammable foam and plaster are used to mould the most intricate of figures. In recent years these monuments have become ever larger and more elaborate and erected during the festival at virtually every road junction and square space. Each is 'owned' by local clubs and syndicates, and can cost upwards of 10,000 euros.







But the festival of Las Fallas is also a floral celebration. Over two afternoons there is an almost endless parade of traditionally dressed men and women converging on the Plaza de la Virgen. Once there they lay flowers at the base of a giant pyramidal structure topped with a caricature of the Virgin Mary. Streets become packed with onlookers. As the culmination of the festival approaches on the evening of the 19th, all strain their necks upwards to admire the multitude of fireworks that herald the imminent cremation of all those weeks of creativity.



# Norway's Route 17 The Kystriksveien

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
Adrian Hough ARPS



When we think about travelling in Norway, the first things that usually come to mind are the fjords between Bergen and Trondheim, the far north, including the North Cape, travelling along the coast using the Hurtigruten boats and possibly the jagged peaks of the Lofoton Islands. However, to the north of Trondheim lies Route 17 - The Kyrstriksveien, which runs for 650 kilometres from the town of Steinkjer to the regional centre of Bodo. The road was completed to connect what had been various isolated communities accessible only by sea. Indeed, Route 17 itself involves seven ferry crossings as well as several spectacular bridges and is just as dramatic but far more varied than the better-known areas of Norway.

The ferries along the route are not bookable, you just turn up and go, and significant queueing is uncommon unless a ferry breaks down. Along the whole of the route there are essentially just five ways to connect inland to the main North-South Highway, the E6, some of which involve long and relatively new tunnels.

#### IMAGES

Top: Typical road sign along the Kystriksveien  
Opposite: Rocks, lakes and ice in Lahko National Park near to Glomfjord. The coloured metallic rectangles are part of a photographic installation









Because of the need to use seven ferries, the cost of driving along R17 is obviously higher than the simple cost of car hire and fuel. Indeed, in addition to the cost of the ferries, there are also several tolls along the road. However, no money changes hands at the time of crossing as everything works by numberplate recognition with the bill eventually finding its way to the driver. That's why all local cars are fitted with a transponder and have the numberplate registered with a credit-card so that payment is both automatic and half the full price for unregistered vehicles. If you take your own vehicle, it can be registered in advance which saves both money and hassle. If you venture off Route 17 to explore more widely then there is the occasional ferry that is not covered by the auto-charge scheme as well as some covered by the new scheme where the government pays the price if you travel on a ferry route carrying less than a certain number of vehicles per year as part of its support of small and isolated communities.

On its way north Route 17 crosses the Arctic Circle so that in mid-summer the sun never sets and in mid-winter it never rises. However, despite being so far north, the summer temperature can easily reach 25C. When we travelled along the route during the second half of June, the long-distance travellers were predominantly Norwegian with just a few German and Dutch camper vans plus the occasional visitor from Switzerland, Sweden, Finland and elsewhere. Accommodation ranges from luxury hotels to basic motels along with 'bobilcamps', the name given to campervan sites.

IMAGES

Top: The view from a local ferry  
Bottom: Inter-island road-bridge near to Bronnoysund





The town of Bronnoysund is the largest centre of population along the route and is probably best known for the mountain of Torghatten which lies a few miles to the south. Here, the mountains have eroded in such a way that a large cathedral-sized cave extends through the mountain from one side to the other and it is possible to walk straight through. Because the floor of the cave falls steeply from east to west, if you are standing at sea-level it is only possible to look straight through the cave from the west. The cave was formed through erosion by sea water and began its life as a sea cave. Legends describe the way in which the cave was formed during a series of incidents involving seven maidens whose own geographical features can be found further north.

Whilst Route 17 itself holds plenty of interest, it is also worth making several small diversions in order to explore what lies beyond the route itself. Two places well worth visiting are the UNESCO World Heritage site of Vega and the island of Leka both of which are also part of the Trollfjell Geopark. Throughout this area the land along the coast has risen quite significantly since the end of the last ice age as the land rebounds from the weight of the ice. This has created a series of raised beaches and an extensive area of shallow water across which are scattered thousands of islands. This area of shallow water, known as the Strandflat, is an important area for various species of bird as well as having an historic importance in the production of Eiderdown using a symbiotic relationship between islanders and wild Eider ducks. These issues are described in detail on the island of Vega.





IMAGES  
Top left: The view towards the cave through the mountain at Torghatten, near to Bronnoysund  
Top right: Sculpture and the island of Sola, off the coast of the island of Vega  
Bottom: The strandflat viewed from the island of Vega







On the nearby island of Leka, primary focus of interest lies in the geological history. In this area the folding of the earth's crust has produced an area where the surface is formed from rocks which until comparatively recently were part of the mantle, the area lying beneath the crust. This has resulted in large areas of yellow rocks and boulders.

The scenery along the route is wonderfully varied and tends to become more rugged as the journey progresses to the north. At Sandnesjoen there are several islands well worth visiting by ferry, the islands themselves being connected by high-level bridges. The islands also offer spectacular views of the nearby mountain ridge known as the Seven Sisters, another natural feature steeped in myth and legend and identified with the seven maidens referred to above. Further north, a few miles south of Glomfjord, it is possible to visit the most southerly permanent icecap in Europe as well as its lowest glacier which reaches almost down to sea level. At Glomfjord the use of two steep and unlit tunnels rising at a gradient of about one in six for some two and a half kilometres enables a drive from sea-level to an arctic landscape where snow drifts and frozen lakes remain into late June. The land is formed of complex folds of soft rock which have eroded to create many small caves and holes.

When travelling from south to north, the final drama lies just to the south of Bodo. Here lies the Saltstraumen where a relatively narrow connection between two different tidal inlets creates currents of up to 20 kilometres per hour together with numerous whirlpools, all of which are visible from the large road bridge which passes directly overhead.

For anyone wanting to undertake the journey, it needs at least two weeks to do it anywhere near justice. Both Trondheim and Bodo have airports with direct flights to Oslo whilst Trondheim also offers some flights to the UK. One-way car hire is possible but more expensive than returning to the same hire point and it would be possible to drive from Bodo back to Trondheim along the E6 in a couple of days. Alternatively, if you want to go further north then Bodo is a stopping-off point for the Lofoten Islands. For anyone wanting to drive part of the journey there are small airports at both Bronnoysund and Sandnesjoen. By connecting various routes it should be possible to do the journey by coach and bus but it would need careful preparation and planning. If you want to see 'Norway with a Difference' or you have already 'done' the usual foreign tourist routes then Route 17 offers something new, just as dramatic and far more varied but without the vast numbers of other tourists.



#### IMAGES

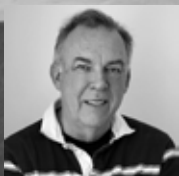
Top: Exposed rocks from the Earth's Mantle, looking inland, on the island of Leka

Bottom left: A bridge on the Kystriksveien near to the town of Sandnessjoen

Bottom right: A Redshank (using a standard lens) - one of the many numerous species of birdlife encountered along the route



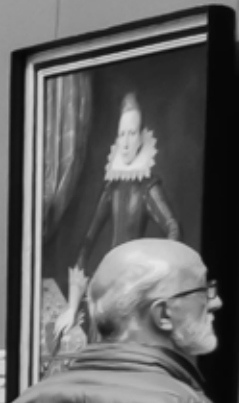
# Discovering Amsterdam



WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
Mike Longhurst FRPS



Informational text panel on the wall.





ABOVE: Bike park on pontoons along Singel; BELOW: Van Gogh's Sunflowers attract a crowd; OPPOSITE: Sculpture Cara de Mujer, Rokin



Our original purpose in taking a few days in Amsterdam via Eurostar was to see the Vermeer exhibition at the Rijksmuseum, but sadly, that's the one thing we didn't get to see. I had neglected to check ticket availability and it was simply sold out for the entire run. Still, Amsterdam has many things to see and photograph, so not entirely a journey wasted.

I am always a bit daunted, though, going somewhere so well-known and so extensively photographed. What on earth am I going to find that I can claim as "my" shots? By "my", I mean of course, things that don't come up a thousand times when you search

online. I think in the case of Amsterdam, I just have to resign myself to the fact that many people have not been there and might appreciate a new view of it, so just get stuck in and don't worry about the clichés.

We stayed close to the Rijksmuseum and near the very cosmopolitan Leidseplein square, so an ideal starting point for walks or boat trips in all directions. Weather was unkind for a day or so, then improved, but one thing we learned quite quickly was, if you want to do anything - eat, visit etc in Amsterdam, you need to book. Just turning up on spec is not a good plan.



Having failed with Vermeer, we did at least do all the rest the Rijksmuseum had to offer, which is plenty and headed for the Van Gogh museum just behind it. Having seen the Van Gogh experience in London, it was somewhere we wanted to go anyway, however when we arrived, a house full sign was up for the day. Luckily a young man introduced himself as a guide who had been stuck with two tickets for right now, by a couple who had failed to appear. Likely story, we thought, but followed him to the entrance and with a wave of his phone, we were in, handing over the right price as we went.

Travelling by tram is very easy, but really, the main scenic area bordered by the Singelgracht canal is easy walking. Not many hills there! Only difficulty is one canal intersection looks very much like another and it is easy to become disorientated.

The flower market along Singel (nowhere near the Singelgracht!) is full of pictures and all along that way there are cheese shops. It might taste like plastic, but it does make for a colourful display. I personally like the Spiegelkwartier, along Spiegelgracht, with its antique shops, galleries and Delftware shops.

During the day, the red light district serves as an additional tourist attraction and given it is right in the middle, opposite the main station, it is hard to avoid going through it in any case. On the sad side, some of the streets in what must have been one of the Jewish quarters have small brass cobblestones inlaid in the pavement saying who lived there, when they were deported and when murdered. Standing there now, it is hard to relate to those times 80 years ago.



TOP: Staircase in Van Gogh Museum; LEFT: Early morning tram, Leidseplein; ABOVE: Flower Market; OPPOSITE: Red Light District

# MOULIN ROUGE



EROTIC  
*nightclub*



MOULIN  
*Rouge*



LIVE SEX  
*theater*



MOULIN ROUGE  
In Stop  
Striptease  
on Show  
le Show  
tor Show  
iana Show  
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Live Sex Show  
€ 40  
Business Participation  
Treatment for special People  
Every month 4 new Programs







OPPOSITE: Old Quarter;  
TOP: Reflections;  
ABOVE LEFT: Canal Paddle Boarder;  
ABOVE RIGHT: Cheese Shop

Everywhere you go, you can catch the whiff of rather sweet-smelling cigarettes and cannabis shops are not hard to find. The local people, of course, speak English far better than we do, so no difficulty there. I'd just say, if you're heading for Amsterdam, be sure to book everything!

Roadside Bakery near Kamchik Pass



# A Photography Tour in Uzbekistan



WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
Graham Vulliamy LRPC

My first post-Covid travel photography experience was to a part of the world I had never visited before – central Asia and, more specifically, Uzbekistan. Accompanied by 11 other hobby photographers, and led by a professional photographer guide, we landed in Tashkent on 8 May, 2023 for a 12-day stay in the country. The tour's itinerary was attractive because, whilst about half the time was spent in the famous Silk Road cities of Khiva, Bukhara and Samarkand, the other half was in remote regions in the Fergana Valley and the mountains.

One of the delights of the tour was the friendly and welcoming reception we received everywhere from the local people. They were very happy to be photographed and appeared to be a really fun-loving people – an attitude illustrated in the

bakery collage opposite. This was clearly helped by the fact that we had an excellent Uzbek guide who accompanied us throughout the whole trip and who could act as an interpreter since few of the local people spoke any English.

An initial day's sight-seeing in Tashkent acted as an introduction to two major cultural influences to be found throughout Uzbekistan, as exemplified by the image taken in the city's central Amir Timur Square. First is the Soviet influence – very evident in the massive Hotel Uzbekistan's 1970's modernist architecture. The country had been a Soviet socialist republic from 1924 until gaining its independence in 1991, following the breakup of the Soviet Union. Second, the huge statue of Amir Timur on horseback is a homage to the man seen widely in post-Soviet times as their national hero.



Amir Timur Square, Tashkent

Timur (variously called Temur and Tamerlane) is a controversial figure for such national hero status. He was of Turco-Mongol origin, born in what is now southern Uzbekistan. During his lifetime (1336-1405) his ferocious military campaigns to other countries built the large Timurid empire that bordered China to the East, the Mediterranean Sea to the West, and India to the South. Inspired by Genghis Khan, he wanted to rebuild the great Mongol Empire. In doing so, his armies are estimated to have killed 17 million people – 5% of the 14th-century world population. His aim was to restore and control the ancient Silk Road, a network of routes that merchants used, connecting civilisations in the East and West. He chose the ancient city of Samarkand as his capital and his patronage of the arts, literature and architecture can be witnessed in the cultural heritage embodied there.

The building of large national monuments of medieval figures in the region's history has characterised Uzbekistan's post-Independence approach to cultural legacy. Statues of Marx, Lenin and Stalin have been removed and new sculptures erected. For example, tourists who fly to Khiva

are greeted in the nearby airport town of Urgench by a massive statue of Jalaliddin Manguberdi on horseback that was officially unveiled in 2022. It was the current President's idea to venerate this ancient figure who, in the 13th century, defeated Mongol invading armies in a series of battles against huge odds before finally being defeated by Genghis Khan's army in 1221.

On day 2 of our tour we took an early flight into the Fergana Valley for a 3-day stay there. The Fergana Valley is more an inland basin than a simple valley, fed by streams and rivers from the mountains which completely surround it. While lying mainly in eastern Uzbekistan, there are also parts in Tajikistan to the north and Kyrgyzstan to the east. Until relatively recently the Fergana Valley has been off-limits for foreign tourists because, since Uzbekistan's independence, the area has witnessed several violent conflicts. Clashes and border disputes ranged from competition for natural resources between countries to a war involving many ethnic groups. The most recent widespread inter-ethnic conflict resulted in tens of thousands of Uzbek refugees crossing the Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan border in 2010.



**Jalaliddin Manguberdi monument, Urgench**

The Fergana valley is the most populous region in Central Asia and it is extremely fertile, producing a large proportion of Uzbekistan's food. Travelling by coach revealed an attractive landscape populated with orchards, vineyards, cotton fields and extensive agriculture. The valley was once part of the main Silk Route between Samarkand and Kashgar in China. The people in the Fergana Valley have been producing silk for around 1,000 years and it is still a thriving industry, centred on the town of Margilan. Silkworms are fed mulberry leaves from the many trees planted along streets and ditches. In addition to large-scale silk production, we visited one of the few enterprises

which have returned to the traditional methods of silk weaving and dyeing. We also visited one of the most famous pottery studios in the town of Rishton, which has been known as a centre for ceramics since ancient times.

We returned to Tashkent by road over the Kamchik Pass, stopping at a roadside market and bakery near the peak. Given that coach travel was banned on the road for safety reasons, necessitating a transfer of our group to three cars instead, we were pleasantly surprised at the excellent quality of the road itself.



**Potter in Rishton**



**Traditional silk manufacture**



**Kamchik Pass**

We had an enjoyable one-night stay with a family in the mountains in the south of the country. This gave us the opportunity to sample aspects of family life in a small village. We also had a long coach journey across the Kyzylkum desert, visiting some ancient archeological sites. However, the rest of our trip was devoted to an exploration of the three ancient Silk Road cities – Khiva, Bukhara and Samarkand. Here the medieval architecture (much of it recently restored) is stunning and the four Ms predominate: mosques, madrasas (religious Islamic schools), mausoleums and minarets.

Moving from the Fergana Valley to Khiva (to which we flew from Tashkent) came as something

of a culture shock. While in the Fergana Valley there had been very few tourists and we had been warmly welcomed by locals, Khiva, a city completely surrounded by its medieval walls, was like walking around an open-air museum. It was flooded with tourists – albeit, we discovered, mostly Uzbek or Russian since Western tourism had not fully picked up again post-Covid. It was also a popular place for Uzbeks to come to have wedding blessings. As an antidote to this showcase life within Khiva, I spent one afternoon walking around a nearby town instead. There I could photograph more normal activities, including a group playing cards on the street corner and an old man with his bicycle.



**Toprak-kala fortress in the desert**



**Toad-headed agama in the desert**

**RIGHT: Wedding in Khiva**



**BELOW: Uzbek tourists  
in Khiva**



**ABOVE: Street card games**



**LEFT: Old man with a big  
beard and a bigger smile**

Samarkand, by contrast, was a city with both superb historic sites and a thriving modern centre, together with spacious parks. The most famous tourist sites there include Registan Square (surrounded on three sides by madrasas), Amir Timur's mausoleum and Shah-i-Zinda. The latter is an avenue of 11 mausoleums, constructed between the 11th and 15th centuries, containing some of the most incredible mosaic, majolica and terracotta work in the Muslim world. Our final visit in Samarkand, before returning to Tashkent on a 135mph bullet train, was to the Meros Silk Paper factory. Here traditional 8th century technologies for making Samarkand paper were re-introduced in 1998 to illustrate the ancient handicraft process, beginning with the stripping of mulberry bark by hand.

We visited numerous large markets throughout the country. However, we could not understand how the plentiful green vegetables we observed there never appeared on restaurant menus (except occasionally as starters). Instead, the two vegetarians in our group were usually offered either an onion omelette or sliced cucumber and tomato. As someone who has always disliked all green vegetables, their national dish, plov, seemed tailor-made for my taste: rice with onions and strips of yellow and orange carrots covered with shredded lamb. Delicious!



**Stripping mulberry bark for silk paper manufacture**



**Family cooking plov for us in our mountain stay**



**Cutting carrots for plov in Samarkand market**





ABOVE: Registan Square, Samarkand

BELOW: Shodi Mulk Oko Mausoleum, Samarkand





# Why I went to Winnipeg

**Rob Morgan ARPS**



*The kiosk at Jim's Corner, North West Angle*



I was sitting in a bar in San Francisco in 1998 and overheard two local men talking. One asked the other "Do you know which two states have land that's north of the 49th Parallel?" and I said to myself "I know the answer to that". The obvious one is Alaska, but most people would guess that Maine is the other one, as it pushes so far north of the adjacent New England states. The correct answer is Minnesota.

After the American War of Independence, the border between the United States and British North America (which became Canada) was established by several treaties over many decades. The border in the eastern part, around Maine, south of Montreal, up the St Lawrence River and through the Great Lakes was established by the Treaty of Paris in 1783. West of there it got messy; for one thing, the Mississippi River didn't extend as far north as the negotiators thought. The Convention of 1818 clarified the border west of Lake Superior to be via the Pidgeon River and then through a series of small lakes and along small connecting rivers and more lakes. Finally, it went up one more river and entered the Lake of the Woods. This area was very remote and certainly had not seen a surveyor. The only map of the time showed the Lake of the Woods as roughly a circle. The Treaty of Paris in 1783 had established that the border would extend up to 'the most Northwest Point' of this lake. From here the boundary agreed in 1818 would follow the 49th parallel of latitude to the west. But was that point at the north west corner of the Lake of the Woods north or south of the 49th Parallel? No one knew for sure. So the Convention agreed that from that point a line would be drawn 'north or south, as the case may be' to the 49th Parallel. Of course, the lake turned out to be anything but round and where the north west corner was must have made for interesting negotiation. But critically, the negotiated point turned out to be north of 49th Parallel by about 40 km (25 miles). And so there is a parcel of United States land (about 15 x 20 km in area) that is above the 49th Parallel and is only accessible by land through Canada. It is in Minnesota and is called the Northwest Angle.



*Into the USA for the second time, at Warroad. The marker and the notch in the distant trees indicate the border along the 49th Parallel. The bird is in Canada*

If you think that is complicated, it is nothing compared with how to enter it if you are not American or Canadian – as I and two Canadian friends found out, 25 years after I was sitting in that bar in San Francisco. In 2022 I was discussing the border with a couple of traffic engineers from Winnipeg (as one does) at a conference in New Orleans. One of them said they were having their Canadian conference in Winnipeg in June 2023. “Why don’t you come to our conference next year? I’ll drive you down to the Northwest Angle after it. It’s only 2½ hours from Winnipeg”. So that’s why I went to Winnipeg.

The day after the conference Craig from Winnipeg drove me and Mark from rural Ontario to this quirk of Canadian/US history. I had my passport and pre-approved ESTA visa waiver still valid from the year before, and the Canadians had their passports. Off we went in Craig’s dual cab pickup truck, towing an enormous pontoon-style boat. The plan was to go for a trip out on the Lake of the Woods.

There is no normal, staffed border crossing into the Northwest Angle. About 13 km into US territory there is an airconditioned kiosk (to keep the enormous flying bugs off you) at Jim’s Corner. In it there’s an electronic tablet.

We each entered our details, then waited – and waited. Unknown to Craig, US Customs and Border Protection was trying to contact him on the mobile phone he left in his pickup. Then came the result of our entry request on the tablet: DENIED !

Subsequent phone discussions back in the pickup truck established that Mark had the same first name and surname as someone either wanted or not welcome in the USA. Once he told them his middle name, he was OK to enter. As for me, I hadn't filled out an I-94 form. Pardon me? The only I-94 I knew was an interstate freeway going across the top of the USA, but that's not what this protector of US sovereignty was talking about. Apparently, within the previous three months I needed to have entered the USA somewhere where they could scan my fingerprints. Last year's prints were no good! While countless refugees were pouring across his country's southern border, he was making sure three gringos on a day trip from Winnipeg were not tarnishing their north border. He offered the option of us going to the nearest staffed border post at Warroad, but right now he instructed us "You better high-tail it out of the Yew-nited States." My two Canadian friends thought this turn of phrase was hilarious. At least he didn't tell us to skedaddle out of there.

So that was entry no.1 into the USA that day. Craig felt obliged to get me into the Northwest Angle legally, as I'd come all the way from Australia, so he drove his pickup and big boat 1½ hours to Warroad, near the east end of the 49th Parallel boundary (entry no. 2) where the US Government got my fresh fingerprints and \$6 (minus the card fee) to help pay off the national debt. Back we went into Canada, where their man dealt with us quickly. Then back into the Northwest Angle (entry no. 3) where this time Craig's new US government app told us we were APPROVED and that we should enjoy our stay.

*Mike and Ilyne's American garden bar with views across to Canada*





*Crow Creek, Angle Inlet, Minnesota*



*At a Canadian island on Lake of the Woods*

By now it was 3.30 pm. Quirky geography calls for quirky encounters. We first met the friendly Mike and Ilyne, locals living near the northern-most end of the northern-most road in the northern-most part of the contiguous 48 states. Mike recalls the time when the phone at the border was nailed to a tree, or before that when there was nothing and people could come and go as they pleased – all in his lifetime.

Then we went over to Jerry's Bar and Lounge where we got enormous take away sandwiches for our 5 pm lunch out on the launch, and I bought a cap to prove I'd been there. I'd been unable to spend my Canadian cash in the previous week: everything in Canada is done by card. So I was very pleased that at Jerry's, in this little corner of the USA, they took my Canadian dollars. Then Craig launched his boat and out we went onto the Lake of the Woods, just four hours later than planned and 240 years after someone mentioned the place at a treaty sub-committee meeting. Most of the lake and most of its islands are in Canada, so over we went. Then we returned to Youngs Bay on the Northwest Angle (entry no. 4 for the day), after sailing straight along the border for the obligatory photo of me with one foot in each country.



*My right foot in Canada, left foot in the USA. Lake of the Woods, 6.22 pm, by Mark David Wilson*

It wasn't over yet. Back at Jim's Corner we then had to phone the Canadian authorities to be let back in. Seeing that they didn't know we had gone in the first place (actually gone, come back in, gone again, back in again and gone again, not counting the boat trip), you have to wonder. Unlike at Warroad, this guy decided the situation required lengthy questioning.

Evidently overwhelmed with our information or by the idea that anyone born in 1950 was still breathing, let alone still travelling, he went off to speak with his supervisor. Finally (and here I sensed a hint of capitulation), he told us our request to be let back in was approved. Two Canadians could go back home and I could be reunited with my suitcase at the Holiday Inn in Winnipeg – which I finally saw at 10.30 pm, after one of the craziest and most enjoyable days of my life. I went straight to bed and then high-tailed it straight to sleep, to dream of border crossings yet to be made.



*Craig finally gets to launch his boat at Youngs Bay, Northwest Angle, about 5 pm*

# Mongolia: an adventure

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
Simon King FRPS







For most people, Mongolia is a country remembered for the legendary exploits of Chinggis Khan and its rich history, dating back to the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries. With this in mind, few people are aware of the country as it is now. A vast country roughly six times the size of the United Kingdom yet with a population of less than 3.5 million. Approximately half of this population live in the capital city Ulaanbaatar and that imbalance is increasing each year as people give up their nomadic or rural way of life for the urban lifestyle.

I have always been fascinated by the far east but, like most, my limited knowledge of the area was influenced by countries like Japan and China. However, after viewing some photographs depicting Western Mongolia's stunning landscape and imagery, my interest was piqued. I started to research the country and decided that I wanted to visit and experience a lifestyle that was far removed from my own.

My main fascination was the lifestyle of the Nomadic Kazakh eagle hunters in Western Mongolia. The first step was to find a travel agent that specialised in this kind of excursion. I found a company that specialised solely in organising trips to Mongolia and could put together a customised

itinerary for the unique trip I was to embark on. The original plan was to visit in 2021 but the COVID pandemic put paid to that and then again in 2022. As things opened up, I had a window in early March 2023 and discussed that with the travel agent. They put together an itinerary that matched my timeframe and the trip was booked.

I flew in to Ulaanbaatar via Istanbul and was met by my guide Gantulga. We dropped my luggage at an apartment owned by the travel company before going to visit the Gandantegchinlen Buddhist Monastery. The following day we briefly visited the winter palace before heading to the airport to leave the bustling city for the vast Eurasian steppe.

Western Mongolia is vastly different from the capital, the sparsely populated region is mostly inhabited by people of Kazakh origins. I flew in to Ulgii which is a provincial capital airport and at this time of year there was only one flight a week in and out. I was met there by Bek my guide and Nurka my driver. The first night was spent in a hotel and after dropping my luggage there, we went to the local market where you could buy most things; food, clothing and personal items. It was very basic and I was warned to be careful taking photographs as people might object.







The following morning the expedition really began with a drive to the first homestay in a UAZ van laden with supplies. We set out on the seemingly endless 100km drive to Lake Dayan where we would be hosted by Shokhan and his family. Although I had already seen many things in Mongolia, this drive to the lake really was an experience like no other. Nurka did not have Sat Nav but he knew exactly where he was going which was incredible.

Shortly after leaving Ulgii the roads turned into dirt tracks and blended into the countryside. The initial terrain was dusty as we drove onwards and my abiding memory of the whole trip was seeing Nomadic Kazakh herders driving their livestock and belongings across the barren and unforgiving landscape. They would be on horseback or on foot with their sheep, yaks, cattle, camels and horses migrating from their winter home to the spring home. With the temperature around -6 Celsius they travel 150km over 5 days despite the biting winds.

As we continued, the dust turned to snow which was heavily compacted as there hadn't been fresh snowfall for some while. Mongolia is known as the land of the blue sky as it has very low precipitation throughout the year. This change in conditions made little difference to the herders as we passed many more. The next surprise was the black lake, at this time of the year completely frozen with the ice many feet deep. Nurka drove across the lake safe in the knowledge that there was no danger to us.

After the lake we stopped at a herder's spring home for some refreshments. Janar hosted us and she prepared some food and milk tea; a staple Mongolian

drink consisting of water, milk, tea leaves and salt. The trip to Lake Dayan resumed passing many more migrations along the way through what was now fairly deep snow.

On arriving at the homestay there were a number of Gers set up for guests, Shokhan however lived in a small homestead with his family. We were high up in the mountains some 2,500 metres above sea level.

On arriving, Shokhan was away with his livestock so I was first introduced to his father Tabai, wife Perne and eldest daughter Jilty. Perne and Jilty tied up the back legs of one of their camels so that they could milk her whilst avoiding being kicked, before letting the calf feed. Fresh camels' milk is surprisingly pleasant and similar to goats milk but lower in lactose content.

I first saw Shokhan the following day and he motioned for me to join him. He was laying down hay for the cattle and horses to eat so I helped. After that, Shokhan and Perne picked out the poo from the cattle pen, they bagged it up and there, dotted around the homestead are piles of poo. The poo dries out over two years and then is used for fuel in the stove for cooking and heating.

In the evening Shokahn loaded up his bull camel and horse ready to take a trip to the nearby frozen river as the family needed fresh water for cooking and drinking. However, as the river was frozen, they took bags with them and broke up the ice, bagged it and loaded up the camel with the bags. Everybody helped and the younger children played whilst the water was bagged up.





That same evening Shokhan invited me to join him and the family for a meal consisting of dried yoghurt, breads, other local delicacies and a large platter of various meats including mutton, horse and beef. We drank milk tea with the meal which was constantly replenished. After the meal the vodka came out whilst Bek played a two-string guitar called a dombra and sung Kazakh folk songs with Shokhan. Finally, Shokhan formally welcomed me to his home and in turn I thanked him and his family for their hospitality. Much vodka was drunk and through Bek we had conversations about life in the UK compared to Mongolia.

That night there was a snow storm with the temperature dropping to -18 degrees. In the morning, I awoke and saw that the camels had been covered in snow but had barely moved. After lunch Shokhan was going up to the mountains to train one of his golden eagles; an opportunity to take some photographs. The golden eagles that he used have a wingspan greater than the height of an average male and can travel up to speeds of 190 mph when hunting prey. What was also incredible was the

bond between the hunter and eagle. The mutual trust is evident. Shokhan wrapped a bone with some meat on in fox fur that was tied to a string and dragged it along the ground. The eagle would be summoned to hunt the prey and then fly at speed to it. It was a privilege to witness the training. The eagle hunters find the young egrets and train them over time to compete in various festivals through the summer and autumn months. The eagles are released back into the wild when they are older and go on to lead a normal life.

After the training session we went to visit another nomadic family for a meal, more vodka and singing ensued. The following day we packed up to return to Ulgii and we said our goodbyes to Shokhan and his family before the journey. Enroute we stopped on the black lake to take some drone footage and photographs. The ice was very slippery and I had a tumble which is something to be wary of. We stopped at Janar's homestead on the way back for food and milk tea. The stop overnight in Ulgii was an opportunity to recharge batteries and get prepared for the trip to the second homestay.







The trip to the second homestay was as eventful as the first. We left Ulgii in a sandstorm which stayed with us for much of the journey. How Nurka was able to navigate his way through the storm I do not know, for we could barely see a few metres in front of us. Eventually the storm cleared as we neared Altansogts - our destination. The homestead was similar to the first one with the family living in a single-storey house and there was a guest Ger for me to stay in.

On arrival I met Sailau who lives with his wife, Pansia, youngest son Berikjan, daughter-in-law Erka and the grandchildren. At his spring homestead there were sheep, camels and horses. Berikjan and Erka milk the camels and sell what they don't need locally. Their son Ahih helps, giving lambs sheep milk from a bottle. In the evening we had a meal with the family and Sailau formally welcomed me to their home. In return I thanked him for his hospitality and gave him a few gifts. As with the previous meals we drank vodka and discussed the differences between our respective lives.

The following day I spent more time with the family as they tended to their livestock, Erka sells any excess camel milk to locals in the nearby town. In the afternoon Sailau and his two sons went up into the mountains to train their golden eagle, this involved having the eagle high up whilst Sailau was in the valley below with some meat wrapped in fox fur. He called to the eagle which was with his sons and the eagle flew down and swooped onto the bait with ease and at incredible speed. It was a breathtaking sight, with Sailau on his horse dressed in traditional fox fur and the eagle soaring through the sky at his call. After the eagle training, it was time to think about packing up for the return journey. In the morning we said our goodbyes to Sailau and his family and returned to Ulgii airport. The trip was fairly uneventful

although with less than two hours to takeoff it felt like we were still in the middle of nowhere. I trusted the team and we got to the airport albeit 10 minutes after check-in opened, but I needn't have worried because other than some staff there was nobody else there. I was the first to check-in and then waited with Bek for the flight to be called. As we neared departure time the locals gradually came in for the flight, some arriving with only a few minutes left. It felt more like people taking a bus than a flight. Once called, Bek and I said our goodbyes and I went through to the departure lounge and then boarded the plane.

I was met at the airport by Gantulga who took me to the apartment in the centre of Ulaanbaatar. I rested for the night, and the following day we revisited the monastery as I wanted to see if I could capture some images of the monks. Some were amenable to having their photograph taken; others were not. Gantulga would ask for me and if permission was given I would go ahead. After the monastery, we went to the main market in Ulaanbaatar which was bewildering, for a Mongolian you could buy everything you needed for setting up a nomadic home including a Ger, all clothing, and furniture as well as food.

We went for a final meal before going back to the apartment for one last time. Gantulga asked me what I wanted to eat, I said could we find a burger, he said I know where to take you. We went to a restaurant and he ordered in essence a bowl of milk tea with some mutton and dumplings, not what I was expecting but at least I finished with an authentic Mongolian meal.

The following morning Gantulga took me back to the airport where we said our goodbyes and I waited for my flight. Thus ended my trip to Mongolia, the most incredible adventure and one I will never forget.





# Travel Trips

## Provence June 2023

**Provence lavender fields and Luberon Villages.**

**Four members of the Travel Group, Jay Charnock, Jane Murphy, John Speller and Keith Pointon spent a week visiting the Luberon and Valensole regions of Provence to capture the strikingly beautiful villages, perched high on hilltops and the once-a-year display of blooming lavender, like purple velvet sweeping through the valleys of the region.**

**Provence is probably one of the best places in the world to experience the stunningly beautiful rolling lavender fields, the most famous of which are on the Plateau de Valensole. There is nothing quite like being out in the lavender fields in the early morning or late evening with the smell of lavender in the air and constant buzz of the bees. Not always alone, many of the fields quickly become engulfed with people, girls posing for their boyfriends, whole families being photographed amongst the long lines of lavender.**





Photography by John Speller



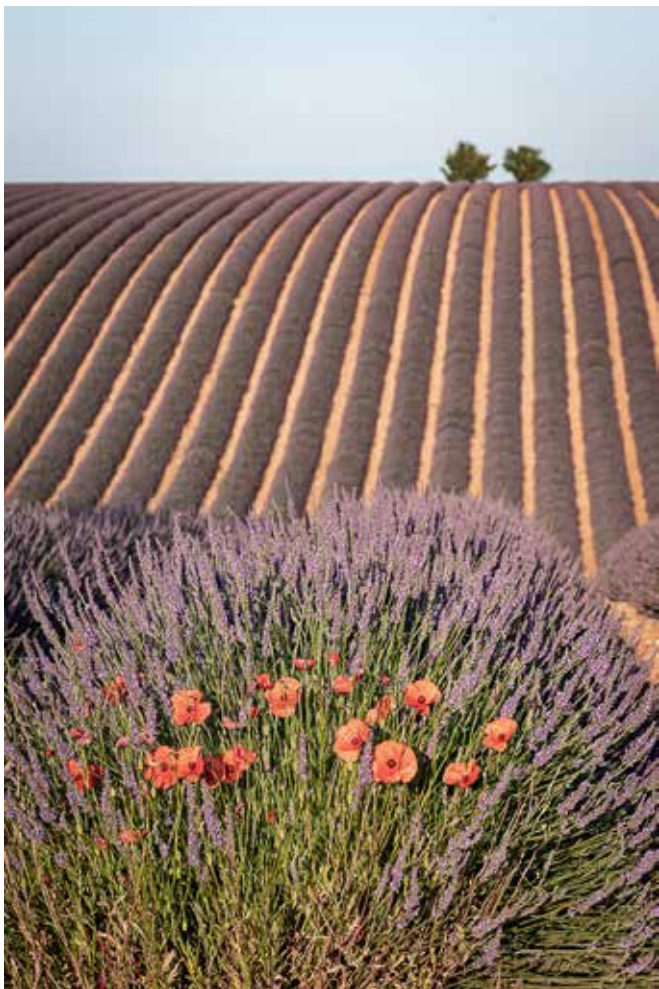


**Photography by Jay Charnock**



Photography by Jay Charnock

## RPS Travel Group Trips - 2023



**Photography by Jane Murphy**





Photography by Keith Pointon



# RPS Travel Group Trips 2024

PHOTO CREDIT: ALISON MEES

## Safari to Kenya

22 June 2024 - 9 nights

Organised for the RPS Travel Group by Alison Mees Photography

Join Alison in June 2024 to experience a Kenyan safari staying at small tented camps in the conservancies Alison knows well.

Starting in Nairobi for 1 night, heading to Ol Pejeta Conservancy for 4 nights where you will get the chance to see White & Black Rhino. This conservancy has the largest population of rhino in East Africa. Here you will also have the chance to see elephants, reticulated giraffe, zebras, lions and a variety of birds. After 4 nights you will fly down to the Mara - well known for the Big Cats. Each day will start early to get the most from the best light, the itinerary all depends on what the wildlife brings to us!

The safari is a small / personal group led by Alison, using an open vehicle for the best game viewing opportunities.

More detailed information on this trip can be found on the RPS Website [rps.org/groups/travel](https://rps.org/groups/travel)

### Cost

\$5935 pp sharing a tent (single supplement available upon request otherwise single travellers will be paired with another single traveller of the same gender)

To reserve your spot in this amazing safari please email Richard Lewis [traveltrips@rps.org](mailto:traveltrips@rps.org)

PHOTO CREDIT: ALISON MEES



# The RPS Travel Group and YOU

There are a number of ways you can contribute to the RPS Travel Group by understanding and participating in the diverse selection of communications and activities organised by the RPS Travel Group Committee.

The best way to find out what is happening is to visit the Travel Group's section on the RPS website [rps.org/groups/travel/](https://rps.org/groups/travel/)

We also communicate with our members via e-news, Share and Chat, Facebook, Travel Log and by e-mail.

A highlight of the group is our in-person trips, photo walks and weekends.

## Connect Online

### e-news

e-news is e-mailed to members every other month to keep Travel Group members up-to-date with members' achievements and activities.



If you have information to be shared please e-mail [travelweb@rps.org](mailto:travelweb@rps.org)

### Join our Facebook Community

All members have access to the Travel Group Facebook page and are encouraged to take part in lively discussions. Information on upcoming events and competition reminders is also posted here.



[www.facebook.com/groups/RPSTr](https://www.facebook.com/groups/RPSTr)

### Share and Chat

These are live online informal gatherings to enable members to connect and share their experiences and inspire each other.

Members sharing images of favourite locations, often off the beaten track, is a popular feature as well as updates on what's happening in the Travel Group and what members would like to happen. These sessions depend very much on Group member involvement.

Please keep an eye on your e-mail, Facebook and the RPS website for the 2024 dates for Share and Chat. These are via Zoom and start at 14:30 (UK Time).

If you can offer an item, please contact Richard Lewis by e-mailing [traveltrips@rps.org](mailto:traveltrips@rps.org)

## Meet In-person

**There are several opportunities per year to meet in-person with other Travel Group members. The largest of these gatherings are the spring and autumn weekend.**

**Planning has started for the next weekend in April 2024. Please hold the date as more detail will be forthcoming over the next month.**

**These weekends provide an excellent opportunity to meet and connect with other Travel Group Members over our shared interest of travel photography.**



# Inspire & Be Inspired



Photo credit Ian O'Neill  
FIPF, ARPS, DPAGB, AWPF,  
HonNWPA January winner

## Monthly Travel Image Competition

Travel Group members have the opportunity to enter their travel photography images into our monthly competition. Submissions are of a single favourite photograph that you feel defines a sense of place.

There are no restrictions on the age of the photograph you submit, but it must not have previously been submitted into an RPS competition. The submitted JPEG image can be any height but it **MUST be 1000px wide and 72dpi.**

The closing date for submissions is the last day of each month before they are judged and a winner chosen. The winning shot will be added to the Travel Image of the Month page on the website, with the overall monthly winners competing to be the Group's annual 'Best of the Best' winner. All entries and the winning monthly image can be viewed on [rps.org/groups/travel/](https://rps.org/groups/travel/)

Submit your entries to [travelcompetitions@rps.org](mailto:travelcompetitions@rps.org)

## Forthcoming events

Events are advertised on the website, e-news, Facebook and via specific broadcasts from the Travel Group.

**TALK 21 January 2024** - Followtheboat - Jamie Furlong

**PHOTOWALK 15 February 2024** - City of London - Justin Cliffe

**WEEKEND 20 April 2024** - Spring Event - Details TBC - **HOLD THE DATE**

**SHARE & CHAT with AGM 19 May 2024 (10:30am) Online**

**TRIP 22 June 2024** (9 nights) - African Safari with Alison Mees

**EVENT October 2024** - Savernake Forest with Jeremy Walker

Find out about upcoming events  
[rps.org/groups/travel/future-travel-group-events/](https://rps.org/groups/travel/future-travel-group-events/)



## Recent events from the RPS Travel Group on YouTube

Online events/talks/presentation run by the RPS Travel Group can be accessed via the Travel Group's section of the RPS website. Click on the link and access a variety of content that can be viewed on YouTube. This helps our members, who live across various timezones, benefit from these events at a time that suits them.

<https://rps.org/groups/travel/recent-travel-group-events/>

## Travel Log

Travel Log is a much valued publication of the Travel Group. The journal provides one way in which we are able to reflect our members' interests and showcase our travel photography and be inspired by other people's interpretation of the genre.

If you have a story to tell, images to share or the perfect cover photo please contact the Editor. There is no set format and we are happy to work with you to help tell your story or write about your images.

Our main requirements for images that we print is that their **resolution MUST be 300DPI** at the size we use them. **A cover image MUST be 300DPI plus slightly more than 3508px high x 2480px wide to ensure high quality printing.**

E-mail article suggestions and potential cover images to [editortravel@rps.org](mailto:editortravel@rps.org)

