

**NOMAD PHOTO
EXPEDITION**

A NOMAD PHOTO EXPEDITION

Bangladesh

Photography Tour with the Rakher Upobash Festival

DHAKA • COX'S BAZAR • BARODI

10 NIGHTS / 11 DAYS

31 OCT – 10 NOV 2027



BANGLADESH · 2027

Bangladesh rewards the patient lens.

Over eleven days we move through Dhaka's working arteries and out to the Bay of Bengal, gathering frames where labor, faith, and daily commerce play out in the open.

We begin in the capital, where dyed cloths dry across open fields, brick kilns smoke at dawn, and the Buriganga River carries a constant traffic of vessels, vendors, and weight. Old Dhaka opens its spice markets, silver workshops, and shell-bangle makers to our cameras.

We fly south to Cox's Bazar for a Buddhist monastery, coastal forest, and the long coral shore at Inani, then return to the geometric racks of the country's largest dry-fish zone.

Back in Dhaka we document schools, madrassas, and trackside communities before traveling to Barodi for the Rakher Upobash festival, where thousands of devotees gather in candlelight. Throughout, our focus stays on people: portraits, gestures, and the settings that frame them.



THE WORKING LENS

A documentary journey, built for photographers who work close to their subjects.

The itinerary favors human stories: textile dyers tending fields of color, weavers at their looms, kiln workers shaping and firing bricks by hand, and craftsmen turning shell and silver into ornament.

Our mornings belong to the city as it wakes earliest — wholesale markets, river jetties, and ship-repair yards along the Buriganga — while afternoons unfold in informal settlements where community life proceeds without staging.

The coast adds a second register: a 400,000-strong Buddhist community's monastery, tropical forest, a quiet coral beach, and the bamboo racks of Nazirartek's dry-fish zone.

Faith threads through the route, culminating in the Rakher Upobash festival at Barodi, where candlelight, chants, and ritual offer rare low-light portraiture. We also meet special-needs students and madrasa pupils whose routines reward patient, respectful documentation. Expect portraits, environmental scenes, and the textures of work — color, smoke, water, and light — across city, river, and shore.





THE ITINERARY

Eleven days of labor, faith,
and light.

Itinerary

10 NIGHTS / 11 DAYS

31 OCT – 10 NOV 2027

DAY 01

OCT 31 (SUN)

Arrival in Dhaka



We land at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka. After clearing immigration and customs, our representative meets us outside the arrival terminal's exit gate and transfers us to the hotel to check in and freshen up. The evening brings an orientation briefing — a chance to align on routines, light, and the days ahead — followed by a welcome dinner. It is a gentle first contact with the city, time to ready cameras and settle into the rhythm of the journey.

Photographic Opportunities: Arrival is light on shooting, but the airport approach, first street scenes from the transfer, and the welcome dinner offer early frames: faces of the team, the texture of the city at dusk, and quiet hotel-side portraits as the group gathers.

Accommodation: Super Deluxe Room at Grand Palace Hotel, Dhaka (4-star local chain)

Meals: Buffet dinner at the hotel

DAY 02

NOV 01 (MON)

Fabric Dyeing Fields & Urban Slum



We leave early, around 0600–0630 hrs, driving 35 km to Araihaazar to photograph the vibrant textile-dyeing process, where dyed cloths are spread across open grounds to dry in broad sheets of color. From there we may visit the Jamdani weaving village at Rupshi, Demra, a short drive away, where handloom weavers produce the region's celebrated fine muslin. In the afternoon we turn to documentary work in one of Dhaka's densely populated informal urban communities, a slum area where daily life proceeds at close quarters. We stay alert to our belongings here, as the area is not entirely safe and pickpockets move among visitors. We overnight in Dhaka.

Photographic Opportunities: Fields of drying cloth in saturated color, dyers turning and lifting fabric, the rhythmic motion of Jamdani handlooms, and weavers' hands at work. In the settlement: candid street portraits, doorway scenes, children at play, and the textures of close-packed community life — made with care and consent.

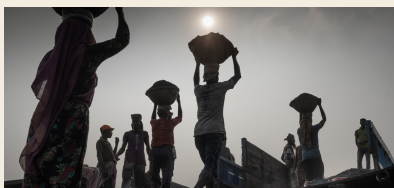
Accommodation: Grand Palace Hotel, Dhaka

Meals: Dinner at a local Chinese / continental buffet restaurant

DAY 03

NOV 02 (TUE)

Brick Kiln Factories



Today we visit two separate traditional brick kiln factories in Savar, 50–60 km from the capital, witnessing workers use time-honored methods to shape, transport, and fire bricks in massive ovens. The scale is industrial yet entirely human-powered: figures moving stacks across smoking yards, the geometry of drying bricks, and the haze of the kilns. We may also visit the river jetty to photograph coal loading, if it is in operation, where laborers carry heavy baskets along the waterline. We overnight in Dhaka.

Photographic Opportunities: Workers shaping and stacking bricks, lines of fired and unfired blocks in repeating pattern, the smoke and chimneys of the kilns, and silhouettes against the ovens. At the jetty: porters bearing coal baskets, dust-streaked portraits, and the play of light and labor along the river's edge.

Accommodation: Grand Palace Hotel, Dhaka

Meals: Dinner at a local Chinese / continental buffet restaurant

DAY 04

NOV 03 (WED)

River Labour & Silver Workshops



We discover Old Town — the spice market, the fruit market, the Sadarghat waterfront, the Buriganga River, Tanti Bazar, and Shakhari Bazar. The busy river jetty teems with the loading and selling of goods; bakers turn out Bakarkhani, old Dhaka's famous flatbread, while people gossip on thin stools, dipping the bread into tea. Live kitchen scenes unfold, Shankhari artisans craft bangles from shell — the trade that gives Shakhari Bazar its name — and silver craftsmen shape jewelry. There is no shortage of subjects on which to focus our lenses, from commerce to craft to candid street life. We overnight in Dhaka.

 **Photographic Opportunities:** Waterfront porters and cargo at Sadarghat, vendors in the spice and fruit markets, bakers at the Bakarkhani ovens, tea-drinkers on low stools, shell-bangle makers mid-task, and silversmiths at the bench. Tight portraits and busy environmental frames reward patience in the lanes of Tanti and Shakhari Bazar.

 **Accommodation:** Grand Palace Hotel, Dhaka
Meals: Dinner at a local Chinese / continental buffet restaurant

DAY 05

NOV 04 (THU)

Poultry Market & Ship-Breaking Yard



Early, around 0530–0600 hrs, we visit a wholesale raw market in the Mirpur area to photograph the loading and unloading of goods and the selling of poultry, fish, and vegetables — a chaotic, vivid morning at one of Dhaka's largest markets. We then drive to Keraniganj to see the ship-repairing yard along the Buriganga River, where vessels are dismantled by hand against a raw industrial backdrop. Sparks, steel, and the bodies of workers define the scene. We may also visit a nearby aluminum factory, adding another layer of manual industry to the day. We overnight in Dhaka.

 **Photographic Opportunities:** Pre-dawn market chaos: porters under load, fishmongers, poultry cages, and vegetable stacks lit by bare bulbs. At Keraniganj: workers cutting and hauling steel, sparks against shadow, hulls under repair, and grease-marked portraits. The aluminum factory offers heat, glow, and the focused gestures of skilled hands.

 **Accommodation:** Grand Palace Hotel, Dhaka
Meals: Dinner at a local Chinese / continental buffet restaurant

DAY 06

NOV 05 (FRI)

Fly to Cox's Bazar



After an early or take-away breakfast, we transfer to the domestic airport and fly to Cox's Bazar. On arrival we visit the Aggameda Khyang, raised on round timber columns — a large Buddhist monastery revered by some 400,000 Buddhists of Cox's Bazar and the Chittagong hill tracts, holding a prayer hall, an assembly hall, bronze Buddha images of mostly Burmese origin, and old manuscripts. We continue to Himchari National Park just south of town, with tropical rainforest, grassland, and seasonal waterfalls that spill toward the beach in the rains. We then drive to Inani Beach, an 18 km calm, quiet coral shore.

 **Photographic Opportunities:** Monks, devotees, and the timber halls and bronze images of Aggameda Khyang; forest light and cascades at Himchari; and the long, quiet curve of Inani's coral beach. Coastal portraits, fishing figures on the sand, and wide land-and-sea compositions in soft afternoon light.

 **Accommodation:** Sea View Room at Sea Palace Hotel, Cox's Bazar (or similar 4-star standard)
Meals: Dinner at a local restaurant

DAY 07

NOV 06 (SAT)

Dry Fish Market & Boat Landing — Return to Dhaka



In the morning we drive to Nazirartek to visit Bangladesh's largest dry-fish processing zone, where thousands of fish hang in geometric rows on bamboo racks under open sky. We then move to the boat-landing site to watch fishermen unload the day's catch from the sea, a scene of weight, water, and coordinated effort. In the evening we fly back to Dhaka, dine at a restaurant, and transfer to the hotel for the night.

 **Photographic Opportunities:** Endless bamboo racks of drying fish in repeating pattern, workers moving among the rows, and the silver shimmer of the catch. At the landing: fishermen hauling nets and baskets, boats nosing ashore, and salt-worn portraits against sea light — strong graphic frames and candid human moments.

 **Accommodation:** Super Deluxe Room at Grand Palace Hotel, Dhaka
Meals: Dinner at a local Chinese / continental buffet restaurant

DAY 08

NOV 07 (SUN)

Inspirational School & Slum Community



This morning we visit a remarkable school where special-needs children learn singing, dancing, painting, crafting, cooking, dyeing, and computer skills — work that helps them grow self-reliant, and an inspiring, moving portrait opportunity. Alternatively, we may visit a madrasa where children from poor families learn Arabic at low cost, or orphans study for free; their day begins very early, around 0300–0330 hrs, and runs late with short breaks for meals and rest. In the afternoon we document another slum area near the train line, continuing our community photography along the tracks. We overnight in Dhaka.

 **Photographic Opportunities:** Expressive classroom portraits — children singing, painting, and crafting — and quiet moments of concentration; or madrasa pupils at dawn study in low light. Trackside: candid community life, children near the rails, doorway scenes, and environmental portraits made with patience and consent.

 **Accommodation:** Grand Palace Hotel, Dhaka
Meals: Dinner at a local Chinese / continental buffet restaurant

DAY 09

NOV 08 (MON)

Rice Processing Region



Early, around 0600 hrs, we drive to Brahmanbaria District — roughly 110 km and about three hours from Dhaka — to see the rice-processing factories. We photograph how workers collect rice, dry it across large fields, and store it, following the grain through each stage of labor. The wide drying yards, figures raking and turning rice, and the play of dust and light make for strong documentary and pattern-driven frames. We return to Dhaka in the evening and overnight.

 **Photographic Opportunities:** Vast drying fields with workers raking rice into shifting patterns, women carrying and spreading grain, steam and dust in low light, and tight portraits of laborers mid-task. Repeating lines, warm tones, and human scale against the open yards reward both wide and close compositions.

 **Accommodation:** Grand Palace Hotel, Dhaka
Meals: Dinner at a local Chinese / continental buffet restaurant

DAY 10

NOV 09 (TUE)

Rakher Upobash Festival



In the afternoon we drive 30 km to Barodi for the Rakher Upobash festival at the Sri Sri Loknath Brahmachari Ashram. Known as Karthik Vrat, Rakher Upabas, Gonsair Upabas, and Ghrit Pradip Prajjalan, it stands as a testament to Bengal's devotion and cultural richness, fostering a deep bond between devotee and divine. Thousands converge from far and wide for the sacred rituals, the candle flames a beacon of hope through the journey of life. Held each Saturday and Tuesday of the last fifteen days of Kartik, it gathers worshippers before the temple at dusk; bathed in candlelight, they immerse themselves in prayer for blessings and solace as chants fill the air. We return to Dhaka late and overnight.

 **Photographic Opportunities:** Rows of devotees before the temple in pooled candlelight, faces lit from below, hands cupping flames, and offerings of ghee lamps. Dusk-to-dark low-light portraiture, chanting crowds, ritual gestures, and the warm glow of massed candles against deepening shadow — among the trip's richest atmospheric frames.

 **Accommodation:** Grand Palace Hotel, Dhaka
Meals: Dinner at a local Chinese / continental buffet restaurant

DAY 11

NOV 10 (WED)

Departure



After breakfast and hotel checkout, we transfer to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (DAC), Dhaka — international terminal — for individual onward flights. Here our services end, cameras full of the labor, faith, and faces of Bangladesh.

 **Photographic Opportunities:** A few final frames remain — packing the gear, last group portraits in the hotel lobby, and parting street scenes on the transfer to the airport as the journey closes.

 **Accommodation:** Not specified (departure day)
Meals: Breakfast at the hotel



THE UNSEEN & THE SACRED

People first — portraits,
gestures, and the settings
that frame them.

WHY THIS JOURNEY

Activity Highlights

Rakher Upobash Festival, Barodi

A candlelit Hindu vigil at the Sri Sri Loknath Ashram where thousands of devotees gather before the temple, offering rare low-light ritual portraiture.

Buriganga River Labour, Old Dhaka

Hand-dismantled ships, coal porters, and a relentless waterfront jetty — the city's industrial pulse rendered in steel, sweat, and river light.

Textile-Drying Fields, Araihaazar

Open grounds laid with dyed cloth in saturated color, a large-scale spectacle of pigment, motion, and pattern.

Nazirartek Dry-Fish Zone, Cox's Bazar

The nation's largest drying ground, thousands of fish ranked on bamboo racks in stark geometric repetition.

Brick Kiln Factories, Savar

Traditional, hand-fired kilns where workers shape and stack bricks amid smoke and chimney haze, a vanishing manual industry.

Shell & Silver Workshops, Shakhari Bazar

Artisans turning conch shell into bangles and silver into jewelry in the lanes that gave the bazar its name.

Special-Needs School & Madrassa, Dhaka

Intimate access to children learning craft, music, and scripture, an inspiring and respectful portrait opportunity.

THE SUBJECTS IN DETAIL

What We'll Photograph

Textile-Drying Fields at Araihaazar

In Araihaazar, freshly dyed cloth is spread across open ground to cure in the sun, turning entire fields into sheets of saturated color. The process is both practical and visually arresting, a working landscape of pigment and pattern. For photographers it offers large-scale graphic compositions, the motion of workers lifting and turning fabric, and intimate frames of dye-stained hands — a vivid introduction to Bangladesh's textile economy and the labor behind everyday cloth.

Jamdani Weaving Village at Rupshi, Demra

At Rupshi in Demra, handloom weavers produce Jamdani, the fine figured muslin long prized across the region. The craft is slow and exacting, patterns built thread by thread on wooden looms in village workshops. Documenting it means watching skilled hands at close range, the geometry of the loom, and the concentration of the weaver. It is a portrait of heritage craftsmanship under pressure from mechanization, rich in texture, gesture, and the quiet dignity of traditional work.

Informal Urban Settlements

Dhaka's informal settlements are dense, resourceful communities where daily life unfolds in close quarters and full view. Photographing here is documentary work in its truest sense — candid street portraits, doorway scenes, children at play, and the textures of makeshift homes. The setting calls for care, consent, and respect, and for awareness of one's belongings. Done well, it yields honest, humane frames that record resilience and community without spectacle or condescension.

Brick Kiln Factories at Savar

Around Savar, traditional brick kilns rise from the plains, their tall chimneys trailing smoke over yards of drying bricks. Workers shape, carry, and fire each brick by hand, an arduous, largely manual industry that feeds the country's construction. For photographers the kilns offer scale and repetition — endless stacked bricks, figures moving through haze, and silhouettes against the ovens — alongside intimate, dust-marked portraits of the laborers who sustain this demanding trade.

Coal Loading at the River Jetty

Where it operates, coal loading at the river jetty is a study in raw physical labor. Porters carry heavy baskets along the waterline, bodies bent under load, faces and clothes streaked with black dust. The scene is gritty and elemental, lit by open sky and reflected river light. It rewards both wide frames of the working jetty and tight, expressive portraits — a documentary record of the manual work that keeps river commerce and industry moving.

Old Dhaka: Markets, Sadarghat & the Buriganga

Old Dhaka's markets and the Sadarghat waterfront form the historic, beating heart of the city. Spice and fruit stalls overflow with color and aroma, while the Buriganga jetty churns with the loading and selling of goods. This is dense, layered street photography — vendors, porters, cargo, and the constant motion of river trade. The narrow lanes and busy ghats reward patience, offering both sweeping environmental scenes and close, characterful portraits of the people who work them.

Bakarkhani Flatbread Baking

Bakarkhani, old Dhaka's famous layered flatbread, is baked fresh in the lanes, where ovens glow and bakers work the dough with practiced speed. Nearby, people perch on thin stools, dipping the bread into tea and trading gossip. The scene blends craft, food, and community — warm light, working hands, and candid social moments. For photographers it is an intimate slice of daily ritual, ideal for storytelling frames that link labor, food, and conversation.

Shell-Bangle Making at Shakhari Bazar

Shakhari Bazar takes its name from the Shankhari artisans who carve bangles from conch shell, a craft passed down through generations in these crowded lanes. The work is delicate and precise, shell cut and polished into pale ornament. Documenting it means close frames of skilled hands, scattered shell fragments, and the focused faces of craftsmen at their benches. It is a window into a specialized heritage trade, rich in texture, detail, and quiet human concentration.

Silver Jewelry Craftsmanship

In the workshops of Old Dhaka, silver craftsmen shape jewelry by hand, hammering, soldering, and polishing metal into ornament. The trade is intimate and skilled, conducted at small benches in narrow spaces. For photographers it offers the glow of the workshop, the gleam of silver, and the precise gestures of practiced hands. Tight, detail-rich frames capture both the craft and the craftsman, recording an enduring tradition of fine metalwork at the city's commercial core.

Wholesale Raw Market at Mirpur

Before dawn, the wholesale market at Mirpur erupts into chaotic life as poultry, fish, and vegetables are loaded, unloaded, and sold. It is one of Dhaka's largest and most vivid morning scenes — porters under load, traders calling prices, and produce stacked under bare bulbs. The low light and constant motion make for energetic documentary frames, from wide views of the teeming floor to close portraits of vendors and the textures of the goods they handle.

Ship-Repairing Yard at Keraniganj

Along the Buriganga at Keraniganj, vessels are repaired and dismantled by hand against a raw industrial backdrop. Workers cut and haul steel amid sparks, shadow, and the looming hulls of boats. The yard is elemental and cinematic, a place of heat, effort, and danger. It offers powerful documentary frames — sparks against dark interiors, grease-marked portraits, and the sculptural forms of ships under repair — recording the hard manual labor of the river's edge.

Aluminum Factory near Keraniganj

Near the ship yards, a small aluminum factory adds another layer of manual industry to the day. Inside, heat, glow, and molten metal define the space as workers cast and shape aluminum by hand. The dim interior and bursts of fiery light make for dramatic, high-contrast frames. Photographers can capture the focused gestures of skilled labor, the textures of raw metal, and the atmospheric interplay of fire and shadow in a demanding working environment.

Aggameda Khyang Buddhist Monastery

The Aggameda Khyang is a large Buddhist monastery revered by some 400,000 Buddhists of Cox's Bazar and the Chittagong hill tracts. Raised on round timber columns, it houses a prayer and assembly hall, bronze Buddha images of mostly Burmese origin, and old manuscripts. For photographers it offers monks and devotees in worship, the warm tones of timber halls, and the gleam of bronze — a respectful study of living faith and regional Buddhist heritage.

Himchari National Park

Just south of Cox's Bazar, Himchari National Park unfolds in tropical rainforest, grassland, and seasonal waterfalls that, in the rains, cascade toward the beach. It is a landscape of layered green and coastal light, a natural counterpoint to the trip's urban industry. Photographers can work with forest texture, falling water, and wide views toward the sea, finding quiet, atmospheric frames and the interplay of jungle, sky, and shore along the southern coast.

Inani Coral Beach

Inani Beach stretches for 18 km as a calm, quiet coral shore south of Cox's Bazar, its waters edged in places by coral. Less crowded than the main strand, it offers serene coastal compositions — long horizons, soft light, and the textures of sand and stone. For photographers it is a place of stillness and space, ideal for minimalist seascapes, fishing figures on the sand, and gentle portraits in the warm light of the Bay of Bengal.

Nazirartek Dry-Fish Processing Zone

Nazirartek is Bangladesh's largest dry-fish processing zone, where thousands of fish hang in geometric rows on bamboo racks under open sky. The scale is staggering and intensely visual, a vast graphic field of silver and bamboo. Workers move among the rows, tending and turning the catch. For photographers it offers striking pattern-driven compositions, the shimmer of drying fish, and candid portraits of laborers — a vivid record of the coastal economy's most important trade.

Boat-Landing Site

At the boat-landing site, fishermen bring their boats ashore and unload the day's catch from the sea. It is a scene of weight, water, and coordinated effort — nets hauled, baskets carried, and boats nosing onto the sand. The action and sea light make for dynamic documentary frames, from wide views of the busy shore to close, salt-worn portraits. It captures the rhythm and labor of coastal fishing at the moment the sea gives up its harvest.

School for Special-Needs Children

This remarkable school teaches special-needs children to sing, dance, paint, craft, cook, dye, and use computers, helping them grow self-reliant. It is an inspiring and deeply moving environment, and a rare, intimate portrait opportunity. Photographing here calls for sensitivity and respect, rewarding the patient eye with expressive faces, moments of concentration and joy, and scenes of learning. The result is humane, dignified documentary work that honors the children and those who teach them.

Madrassa / Orphanage

At the madrassa, children from poor families learn Arabic at low cost, while orphans may study for free. Their day starts very early, around 0300–0330 hrs, and runs late with short breaks — a demanding routine of devotion and learning. For photographers it offers quiet, atmospheric frames: pupils bent over texts in low light, rows of students at study, and the rhythms of religious education. It is a respectful look at faith, schooling, and childhood at the margins.

Trackside Slum Community

Near the train line, a trackside settlement offers further community documentary photography. Life here presses close to the rails, with homes, commerce, and play unfolding alongside passing trains. The setting is charged and immediate, demanding care, consent, and timing. It rewards photographers with candid street scenes, children near the tracks, doorway portraits, and the textures of resilient community life — honest frames that record how people make home and livelihood in a precarious urban space.

Rice-Processing Factories, Brahmanbaria

In Brahmanbaria District, some 110 km from Dhaka, rice-processing factories spread grain across vast fields to dry before storage. Workers collect, rake, and turn the rice in shifting patterns across the open yards. The scale, repetition, and warm tones make for strong documentary and graphic frames — wide views of the drying fields, figures raking grain, and close portraits of laborers. It is a window into the agricultural cycle that underpins the nation's staple food.

Rakher Upobash Festival, Barodi

At the Sri Sri Loknath Brahmachari Ashram in Barodi, the Rakher Upobash festival — also called Karthik Vrat, Rakher Upabas, Gonsair Upabas, and Ghrit Pradip Prajjalan — draws thousands of devotees to fast and pray by candlelight. Held on Saturdays and Tuesdays in the last fifteen days of Kartik, it sees worshippers gather before the temple at dusk, faces lit by massed ghee lamps as chants fill the air. For photographers it is the trip's richest low-light spectacle of faith, devotion, and atmosphere.

THE FULL ROUTE

Photographic & Cultural Activities

- Textile-drying fields at Araihaazar
- Jamdani weaving village at Rupshi, Demra
- Documentary work in Dhaka's informal urban settlements
- Traditional brick kiln factories at Savar
- Coal loading at the river jetty
- Old Dhaka: spice market, fruit market, Sadarghat & the Buriganga
- Bakarkhani flatbread baking, Old Dhaka
- Shell-bangle making at Shakhari Bazar
- Silver jewelry craftsmanship, Tanti Bazar
- Wholesale raw market at Mirpur (poultry, fish, vegetables)
- Ship-repairing yard at Keraniganj
- Aluminum factory near Keraniganj
- Aggamedda Khyang Buddhist monastery, Cox's Bazar
- Himchari National Park forest and waterfalls
- Inani coral beach
- Nazirartek dry-fish processing zone
- Boat-landing site and fishermen's catch, Cox's Bazar
- School for special-needs children, Dhaka
- Madrassa / orphanage study routines
- Trackside slum community documentary
- Rice-processing factories and drying fields, Brahmanbaria
- Rakher Upobash festival at Sri Sri Loknath Ashram, Barodi

WHERE WE STAY

Hotels Used

Final hotels will be shared 30 days before departure

LOCATION	ACCOMMODATION	NIGHTS
Dhaka	Grand Palace Hotel Super Deluxe Room · 4-star local chain	Nights 1-5, 7-10
Cox's Bazar	Sea Palace Hotel Sea View Room · 4-star standard or similar	Night 6