

**NOMAD PHOTO
EXPEDITION**

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The Unseen & The Sacred

CRAFTED TO SURPASS EXPECTATIONS



Destinations fade, experiences last

I'm particularly proud to share that a significant portion of our clientele consists of repeat travelers. Many choose to embark on multiple adventures with us over the years. This loyalty, I believe, is due to the memorable experiences we many times deliver. It's not just about the destinations we visit, but the journey we create and the memories we help forge along the way. The nature of our expeditions often leads us to less-traveled paths and regions where tourism infrastructure might not be as developed as in more conventional destinations. This can indeed present us with unexpected challenges. However, it's precisely these situations where our expertise comes to work.

Over the years, we've honed our skills in navigating these unpredictable scenarios, often transforming potential setbacks into great experiences that become highlights of the trip. What truly sets us apart is our ability to carefully curate unique photographic experiences, granting access to rarely visited communities and remote locations. Our journeys are centered around meaningful human interaction and immersive encounters—offering privileged entry into profound cultural events and intimate daily activities. These are not just photographic moments, but opportunities to connect, exchange, and create lasting memories that stay with you for a lifetime.



Harry Fisch

FOUNDER





70% of our clients
are repeating customers



You don't need to be a photographer to enjoy our trips. If you love exploring unique, special, and exotic destinations while observing everyday life, you'll love traveling with us. Although our journeys focus on photographic experiences, they're really about meaningful personal connections. Even if photography isn't your main passion, you're welcome—especially if you're joining as a couple and one partner is more into photography.

The only requirement is a bit of flexibility, as our itineraries are designed around photography. That means embracing a schedule and pace that prioritize capturing the perfect moment—sometimes with the timing and patience that photography inspires.

Testimonials

".....We were immersed in places that were off the beaten track and perhaps near the edge of the average comfort zone, however we always felt confident in our safety."

LILIAN SHEN / USA
THREE TRIPS WITH NOMAD

".....the photographic challenges came thick and fast – low light, recalcitrant subjects, delicate negotiations, chaotic scenes, matched with great colours, energy, fascinating subjects and the bizarre. The three weeks were fantastic..

PAUL GREENFIELD / USA
FOUR TRIPS WITH NOMAD

".....the photographic challenges came thick and fast – low light, recalcitrant subjects, delicate negotiations, chaotic scenes, matched with great colours, energy, fascinating subjects and the bizarre. The three weeks were fantastic..

LILIAN SHEN / USA
THREE TRIPS WITH NOMAD

".....Harry specializes in setting up photo shoots that are unique and seldom available to individuals..."

PAT & MIKE POULTER / USA
SEVENTEEN TRIPS WITH NOMAD

"Mongolia completes my seventh trip with Harry. This speaks for itself really. Always enjoyable, great encouragement and advice from the master himself and of course some great photos; not just tourist shots."

GARY CLODE / NZ
SEVEN TRIPS WITH NOMAD

"Mongolia completes my seventh trip with Harry. This speaks for itself really. Always enjoyable, great encouragement and advice from the master himself and of course some great photos; not just tourist shots."

PAT & MIKE POULTER / USA
SEVENTEEN TRIPS WITH NOMAD

".....Accommodations, transportation and importantly meals were first class and varied as to where we were on the island.."

PAT & MIKE POULTER / USA
SEVENTEEN TRIPS WITH NOMAD

"Very well organized! I highly enjoyed the Benin trip, the Voodoo festival and the many photographic opportunities available. This is a great opportunity to see a side of West Africa not often seen by tourists. Thank you, Harry!"

D. JANOWITH, USA
NINE TRIPS WITH NOMAD

".....Accommodations, transportation and importantly meals were first class and varied as to where we were on the island.."

PAT & MIKE POULTER / USA
SEVENTEEN TRIPS WITH NOMAD

It's not just about being there our passion is creating opportunities.



PASSION FOR PEOPLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Capturing authentic human stories inspires us. We focus on connections, emotions, and culture, making every portrait a meaningful masterpiece.

EXPERTISE IN OFF-THE-BEATEN-PATH OPPORTUNITIES

Capturing authentic human stories inspires us. We focus on connections, emotions, and culture, making every portrait a meaningful masterpiece.



MAXIMIZING PHOTOGRAPHIC FREEDOM

Capturing authentic human stories inspires us. We focus on connections, emotions, and culture, making every portrait a meaningful masterpiece.



Beyond the destination itself we look at the most interesting themes and subjects in each location. You need to know what is authentic or of genuine photographic interest and what isn't, and you need, of course, a solid connection to the locals.

Years of investment in local research, looking for interesting places to visit, struggling to create the proper contacts, handpicking hotels. We are all passionate about photography, and want our clients to share that.

We approach this challenge by creating opportunities to catch everything at its best; people interacting until we hit the perfect, most natural and real scene.



Tourist traps are for selfies; we create experiences for passionate photographers.



We redefine the essence of travel by steering clear of the conventional and predictable. Tourist traps, with their crowds and clichés, cater to fleeting visitors; we craft journeys for true explorers. For us, travel is not about ticking off landmarks—it's about immersion, discovery, and connection.

Our expertise lies in creating extraordinary travel experiences tailored to the discerning eyes of passionate photographers. We guide you to hidden gems and off-the-beaten-path locations where light, texture, and life come alive in ways no postcard can capture.

Each stop, each visit, is meticulously chosen not just for its visual allure but for the stories it tells and the emotions it evokes.

THE FETISHES
PRIVATE SESSION WITH FETISHES AFRICA



The Leading Photographers



Harry Fisch

Harry Fisch is a travel photographer who founded Nomad Photo Expeditions in 2009. The winner of the 2012 World National Geographic photo contest in the Places Category and later disqualified due to editing-out a plastic bag (read the post [How I won and lost the National Geographic contest in less than one second](#)). His work has deserved since then numerous awards: selected in 2010 by Photoespaña in the section "Discoveries", finalist in the Sony 2012 World Photo Awards, two Jury Awards in 2014 in the Grand Prix de la Découverte, 2019 two IPA Professional Awards of Merit, 2019 finalist in the Travel Photographer of the Year.

In 2020 he was awarded a Bronze in the professional category on the MIFA (Moscow International Foto Awards), 2020 finalist at the IPA as well as two honorable mentions. 2021 PX3 (Prix de la Photographie de Paris) Gold Winner. Fine-Art. 2022 TIFA (Tokyo International Foto Awards) two Honorable Mentions and three Official Selections, 2022 LENS CULTURE (Critic's Choice) Winner.



Roberto Pazzi

Roberto Pazzi, born in Milan, Italy, is an award-winning, self-taught travel photographer known for his captivating images of remote cultures and traditions. Originally an engineer, Pazzi discovered his passion for photography during his travels in 2013 and transitioned to a full-time photography career by 2015. Now based in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, he has visited over 60 destinations, designing and leading photographic expeditions through Nomad Photo Expeditions.

Pazzi's work has been featured in esteemed publications like National Geographic, The Times, and The Guardian. His accolades include winning the Smithsonian Photography Awards and gold medals at the Tokyo International Foto Awards and the ND Photo Awards. With exhibitions in Paris, London, Venice, and beyond, his photography highlights the beauty and diversity of the world's remote regions.

The Unseen & The Sacred

We have curated a rare photographic and personal journey built around two extraordinary religious festivals — and the hidden worlds that surround them. Monks who stripped faith to its bare essence. Devotees who wrote God across every inch of their skin. Deep tribal villages that almost no outsider has ever entered. This is not a tour. It is an encounter.

Tribal heartland stretches across Odisha and Chhattisgarh in a mosaic of forest villages, sacred riverbanks, and living ritual traditions that most of the world has never witnessed. Over nine days, we move through this double landscape — attending festivals, entering tattooed worlds, and witnessing gatherings that resist easy classification.

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Around both festivals: Dhokra bronze casters, silk ikat weavers, Kutia Kondh forest villages marked by full facial tattoos, and the grandeur of the Rajim Kumbh Mela. Every stop an encounter. Nothing arranged for outside eyes. The journey concludes at the Rajim Kumbh Mela, where pilgrims and ash-covered sadhus converge on the sacred Triveni Sangam — one of Chhattisgarh's most visually arresting visual festivals.





Monks who stripped faith to its bare essence. Devotees who wrote God across every inch of their skin. Deep tribal villages almost no outsider has entered. This is not a tour. It is an encounter with living sacred interior.

Two festivals anchor this journey. In Odisha, the Joranda Mela draws saffron-clad monks of the Mahima Dharma — a 19th-century reformist movement that rejected idols, caste, and ornament, worshipping a single formless God. In Chhattisgarh, we spend a full day with the Ramnami Samaj — devotees who tattooed the name of Ram across every inch of their bodies, sustaining their own music, literature, and ritual life entirely from within.

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We organize our photography sessions not only for the visual quality of the subjects, but also for the potential to work with them respectfully and genuinely in the field.

Each cultural encounter follows a thoughtfully structured approach that allows time for observation, trust-building, and multiple photographic passes. These arrangements support varied lighting conditions and considered framing, helping participants test lenses, adjust composition, and refine their approach across consecutive sessions. The aim is not volume but a coherent body of work — images that communicate depth and carry the weight of genuine encounter.

Once in each location, we remain flexible and responsive to what the village or festival offers. Our local guide can identify additional portrait subjects and moments of access as they become available and appropriate within the day.

Highlights

Real human contact, not a festival

Mahima Dharma's Magha Purnima gathering: saffron monks, sacred fire rituals, and a formless-God theology rarely witnessed outside spiritual interior, where altars hold no idols.

The Kutia Kondh of the Phulbani Highlands

Full facial tattoos and log-built forest settlements mark the Kutia Kondh — a Kondh sub-group with a ritual history rooted in the Earth Goddess, among tribal rarest portrait subjects.

Dhokra Bronze Casting in Sadeibaruni Village

Ghantara tribal artisans practicing the ancient lost-wax casting method — unchanged for centuries; working foundries, molten brass, and the hands of a tradition still entirely alive today.

The Ramnami Samaj at Shivrinarayan

Bodies and shawls tattooed entirely with Ram's name; peacock-feather headgear, devotional chanting, and exclusive ritual access arranged for our group by trusted local contacts.

Rajim Kumbh Mela at the Triveni Sangam

Ash-covered sadhus and thousands of pilgrims converge at the sacred river confluence; aarti at dusk on the Mahanadi offers the journey's most luminous and atmospheric photographic hour.

Silk Ikat Weaving, Nuapatna & Maniabandh

Handloom masters producing tie-and-dye textiles of extraordinary precision; dyed thread cascades, loom mechanics in motion, and weaver portraits in the natural light of village workshops.



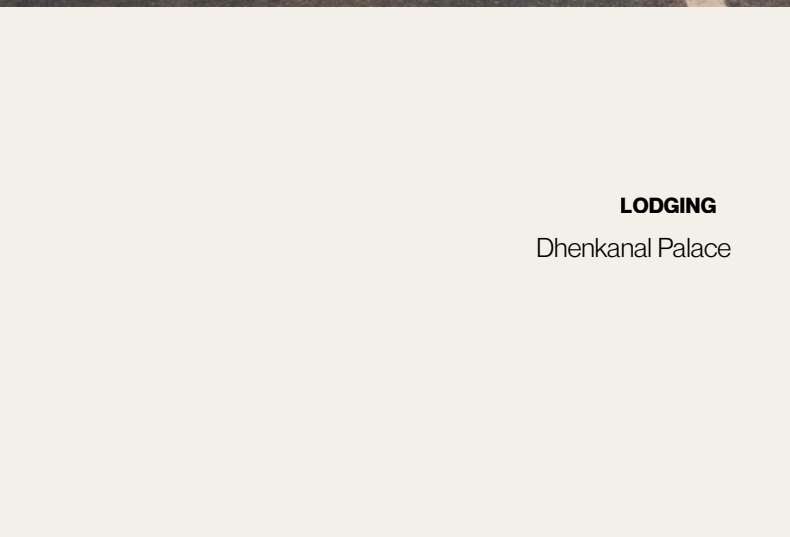
Proven logistics convert rugged routes into comfortable, safe adventures offbeat.

Please note that hotel standards are not comparable to those in more touristic or widely visited destinations. Nevertheless, in most cases, they represent the best accommodation available during that period.



TRANSPORT

Toyotas Innovas. 3 travelers + driver or large buses.



LODGING

Dhenkanal Palace



LODGING

Raghav Inn

THE UNSEEN & THE SACRED

Bodies written with Ram's name across every inch of skin devotion's most radical and visually complete expression

Joranda Festival (Joranda Mela).- The Joranda Mela is the annual gathering of the Mahima Dharma movement — a 19th-century reformist faith that rejects idol worship, caste hierarchy, and material accumulation in favour of devotion to a single formless divine called Alekh Brahma. Celebrated at Magha Purnima, the festival assembles hundreds of monks, ascetics, and lay devotees at the Mahima Gadi. Sacred fire rituals, chanting, and the visual spectacle of saffron robes against altar spaces empty of idols make this one of most remarkable and least-documented spiritual events. For the documentary photographer, the combination of dramatic firelight, intense devotional faces, and austere ritual settings creates images of rare depth and cultural specificity.

Evening Rituals at the Joranda Monastery and Temples.- The monastery and temple complex at Joranda is unlike any conventional Hindu sacred space — its defining visual feature is the absence of images. Evening rituals involve prayer, chanting, and sacred fire conducted before altars dedicated to pure formlessness. The monks' daily observances, the movement of light and shadow through simple architectural spaces, and the quiet intensity of practitioners in meditation offer a photographic register rooted in restraint. First contact with the Mahima cult on Day 2 prepares the eye for the fuller immersion of the festival day ahead.

Ramnami Samaj Village — Full-Body Ram Tattoo Portraiture.

The Ramnami Samaj is one of the most visually extraordinary devotional communities in India. Members tattoo the name 'Ram' across their entire bodies — skin, face, scalp — using special ink, as an expression of total devotion to the divine. Those fully covered are known as Purnanakshik. Combined with shawls printed with Ram's name and peacock-feather headgear, the Ramnami present a visual density unlike anything else in the subcontinent. Portrait photography here is not merely documentation — it is an act of bearing witness to one of devotion's most radical and visually complete expressions in the entire subcontinent.

Ramnami Samaj Cultural Rituals — Exclusive

Community Access.- The community gathering and ritual session organized for our group at Shivrinarayan is an exceptional access opportunity. The Ramnami Samaj developed their own musical traditions, reading culture centered on the Ramcharitmanas, and clothing practices as an expression of faith built entirely from within — without institutional support or formal religious structure. Witnessing and photographing the group in devotional song, communal gathering, and ritual practice provides the documentary photographer with material of deep cultural significance that very few outsiders ever encounter.

THE UNSEEN & THE SACRED

The Mahima monk stands before an altar empty of images form and devotion in their purest visual state.

Portraits and Documentary Photography of Mahima Cult Monks, Joranda.-

The monks and sadhus of the Mahima Dharma are among Odisha's most distinctive spiritual figures — robed simply, often barefoot, their faces marked by lives of ascetic practice. Portrait access at Joranda, both during the evening rituals and the festival gathering, provides the opportunity for close, respectful, and sustained documentary portraiture. The absence of ornament or iconography in their environment means the face, the gesture, and the light carry all the visual weight — conditions that produce powerful photographic results through concentrated attention to human presence alone.

Dhokra Lost-Wax Bronze Casting, Sadeibaruni.-

The Ghanara people of Sadeibaruni are among the few remaining practitioners of the Dhokra casting method — one of the oldest metal-casting techniques in the world, using a wax model coated in clay that is fired and replaced with molten brass. The resulting figurines, jewelry, and objects carry a rough, textured beauty that reflects the handmade process at every stage. Photographically, the village foundries offer a complete documentary arc: the hand-shaping of wax, the clay molds drying in sunlight, the pour of metal, and the finishing of cooled castings — all accessible within a working village context.

Silk Ikat Weaving, Nuapatna and Maniabandh.-

Nuapatna and Maniabandh are two of Odisha's most celebrated centers for Silk Ikat — a resist-dyeing technique in which threads are bound and dyed before weaving to produce complex patterns that emerge on the finished textile. Working on small handlooms, the weavers produce fabrics whose intricate geometric and figurative designs require extraordinary skill and patience. The textile villages offer layered photographic subjects: loom mechanics in motion, the vivid color of dyed thread skeins hung to dry, close-up detail of the emerging weave pattern, and portraits of weavers whose hands are stained with the dyes of their own craft.

Kutia Kondh Village Visits, Phulbani.-

The Kutia Kondh are a sub-group of the Kondh tribe living in the forested highlands near Phulbani — their most visually singular characteristic being the full facial tattoos worn by women as markers of identity, beauty, and tribal belonging. Their settlements are scattered through deep forest, built largely from large wood logs for walls and fencing. The Kutia Kondh's history includes the Meria Sacrifice — ritual offering to the Earth Goddess — which shaped their relationship to the land over generations. Portrait access to tattooed faces of this cultural depth is extraordinarily rare outside organised tribal visits.

THE UNSEEN & THE SACRED

Full facial tattoos worn since birth mark the Kutia Kondh women — among the rarest portrait subjects in all of tribal India.

Desia Kondh Village Visits.- The Desia Kondh are the most widely distributed of the Kondh sub-groups, and while they share cultural roots with the Kutia Kondh, they differ in important visual details: no facial tattoos, but hand tattoos are present, and their attire and material culture carry their own regional character. As skilled forest-dwellers, they exhibit a deep knowledge of and adaptation to their environment. Their villages, handicraft traditions, and domestic spaces provide rich documentary material — particularly the contrast between their visual identity and that of the Kutia Kondh encountered the previous day on the route.

Gond Tribal Community — Gond Painting.- The Gond are one of India's largest and most culturally rich tribal communities, residing primarily in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. Their traditional painting — Gond art — is a complex visual language of interlocking patterns, dots, and lines depicting natural and mythological subjects with dense symbolic meaning. Practiced on walls, paper, and canvas, Gond painting has gained international recognition while remaining rooted in village practice. Photographing Gond painters at work — in natural light, surrounded by the visual environment that inspires their imagery — connects the art to its living source in a way that gallery images cannot.

Rajim Kumbh Mela at Triveni Sangam.- The Rajim Kumbh Mela, held at the confluence of the Mahanadi, Pairi, and Sondur rivers, is Chhattisgarh's most significant spiritual festival — a gathering of saints, pilgrims, and ash-covered sadhus who come to bathe at a site considered to purify the soul. The scale of the gathering, the diversity of its participants, the color of devotional processions, and the dramatic presence of ascetics who have renounced ordinary life make the Rajim Mela a festival of exceptional documentary richness. The Triveni Sangam at dusk — with lamps lit on the water and aarti reflected in the current — offers some of the most atmospheric photographic light of the entire journey.

Evening Aarti at the Rajim Riverbanks.- The evening aarti ceremony at Rajim — priests moving lit lamps in ritual circles before the sacred confluence — is among the most visually compelling sequences of the journey. Light on moving water, the warmth of flame against the cooling evening sky, crowds of pilgrims in devotional silence or song: the aarti compresses into a single ceremony the full visual power of Indian riverbank worship. Photographically, the combination of directional flame light, reflective water, and human expression creates conditions for imagery that is simultaneously documentary and luminous, carrying both the weight of faith and the grace of light.

THE UNSEEN & THE SACRED

Ash-covered sadhus converge on the Triveni Sangam, where three rivers meet at the festival's luminous sacred heart.

Morning Photography Session at Rajim Kumbh Mela

- Returning to Rajim on the final morning gives us access to the mela under its most photographic light conditions: early sun slanting across the Triveni Sangam, pilgrims entering the water in the golden hour, sadhus beginning their morning rituals on the ghats. The relative quiet of the morning — before the full crowd builds — allows for more sustained portrait work and considered compositional choices. This closing session is both a photographic culmination and a meditative farewell to the living spiritual landscape of Chhattisgarh and the entire journey.

Local Village Exploration, Dhenkanal.- The afternoon village exploration near Dhenkanal Palace on Day 2 serves as an important transition — our first immersion in Odisha village life before the more concentrated tribal encounters ahead. Village scenes, daily domestic rhythms, and informal encounters with local residents offer warm-up portrait and street photography in a relatively accessible environment, calibrating both the photographer's eye and the group's approach to respectful engagement before entering deeper into tribal territory across the following days.

We coordinate each photographic session through our guide, ensuring that consent and comfort remain paramount at every stage. Positions remain stable, obstructions are avoided, and photography proceeds only with explicit agreement from the communities involved, prioritizing the integrity of the ritual sequence and the dignity of the participants over purely visual considerations.

The journey's structure allows for accumulation — each encounter deepening the visual and cultural vocabulary available to the photographer. By the final sessions at the Rajim Kumbh Mela, participants have spent nine days building trust, calibrating their eye, and learning how to move within communities whose lives and practices are profoundly different from their own.

The resulting body of work is not a trophy but a collaboration in which place, people, and the documentary impulse together shape the image. We close with photographs that are gentle and precise, acknowledging that culture is not only what happens in the ceremonial arena, but what continues after — devotion sustained, communities gathered, and traditions alive in their own terms.



Itinerary

DAY 1

Arrival in Delhi

Our journey begins with arrival at Delhi International Airport, where assistance awaits on the ground. Transfer to the hotel follows — rooms are available from 14:00 hrs. There are no formal activities scheduled for the evening, making this an ideal moment to settle, prepare photographic equipment, review the days ahead, and attune to the rhythms of India before nine days of immersive cultural and tribal exploration begin in earnest. This first night serves as a calm and essential threshold — the quiet before the encounter with Odisha's living sacred interior begins.



Photographic Opportunities:

Airport arrival light and first impressions of Delhi; evening street scenes near Aerocity; golden-hour city textures; ambient light within the hotel environment setting the mood for nine days of immersive photographic engagement ahead — a quiet, calibrating opening to the journey's visual language.



Meals: No meals

Accommodation: Pride Plaza Aerocity, Delhi — Deluxe Room

Itinerary

DAY 2

Delhi to Bhubaneswar — Meet the Mahima Monks



Early morning transfer to Delhi airport to board Air India flight (baggage allowance: 15 kg checked, 7 kg hand luggage). On arrival in Bhubaneswar, we drive directly to Dhenkanal Palace for check-in — approximately 70 km / 2 hours. The afternoon is given to exploring the local village near the palace. Late afternoon, we drive one hour to Joranda to meet the monks of the Mahima cult — a 19th-century spiritual movement that believes in a single formless divine power, rejects idol worship and caste distinctions, and promotes equality, simplicity, and universal brotherhood. We attend the monks' evening rituals before returning to Dhenkanal.

Photographic Opportunities:

The Joranda monastery at dusk: monks in plain robes, sacred fire catching weathered faces, altar spaces deliberately empty of imagery — form and devotion in their purest visual state. Portraits of sadhus in the candid warmth of evening prayer, and the local village scenes on approach to the palace.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Dhenkanal Palace, Dhenkanal — Standard Room

Itinerary

DAY 3

Joranda Festival



After breakfast, full-day excursion to witness the Joranda Festival. This is a major spiritual gathering of Mahima Dharma followers, celebrated at Magha Purnima in honour of the formless divine Alekh Brahma. Hundreds of monks, ascetics, and devotees assemble at the Mahima Gadi to perform prayers and sacred fire rituals, creating a deeply spiritual atmosphere charged with chants and devotion. The festival reflects the teachings of Mahima Gosain — equality, simplicity, and universal brotherhood — and for the cultural photographer it represents one of Odisha's most visually powerful and least-documented spiritual events in the entire country.

Photographic Opportunities:

Saffron-robed sadhus against bare-altared walls, sacred fire ceremonies at golden hour, close-range portraits of devotees in prayer, the mass gathering at the Mahima Gadi — intense light, concentrated faces, and the visual drama of deep conviction in spare, ornament-free surroundings throughout the day.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Dhenkanal Palace, Dhenkanal — Standard Room

Itinerary

DAY 4

Dhenkanal to Phulbani — Dhokra Casting & Silk Ikat



After breakfast, we drive to Phulbani. En route, we stop in Sadeibaruni to visit a Dhokra casting village — home to the Ghanara tribal people, whose artisans practice the ancient lost-wax process to create intricate brass figurines, jewelry, and handicrafts. We observe the craftspeople at work in their village workshops, with opportunity to try the technique firsthand. Continuing the drive, we visit the textile villages of Nuapatna and Maniabandh, renowned for traditional Silk Ikat — a tie-and-dye weaving technique practiced on small handlooms, producing textiles celebrated for their intricate designs and vibrant colors. On arrival in Phulbani, check-in to hotel.

Photographic Opportunities

Hands shaping wax over clay, the pour of molten brass, cooling metal forms in the Sadeibaruni workshops — process photography at its most elemental. In Nuapatna and Maniabandh: dyed silk skeins in natural light, loom mechanics in motion, and weaver portraits against the geometric patterns of their own textiles.



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel K.P. Salunki, Phulbani — Standard Room

Itinerary

DAY 5

Phulbani to Balangir via Kutia Kondh Villages

After breakfast, we visit the villages of the Kutia Kondh — one of three sub-groups of the major Kondh tribe. The Kutia Kondh are distinguished by full facial tattoos, a cultural identity marker of profound significance. Their history includes the Meria Sacrifice — a ritual offering to the Earth Goddess for better harvests — a practice that defined their relationship to the land for generations. Their villages are scattered through deep forest, where large wood logs form the structure and fencing of homes, reflecting a way of life in close symbiosis with the surrounding forest. After lunch, drive approximately 190 km / 4 hours to Balangir. On arrival, check-in to hotel.



Photographic Opportunities:

Full facial tattoos of Kutia Kondh women and elders — among the rarest and most compelling portrait subjects in all of tribal India. The log-and-wood architecture of forest settlements, domestic scenes within village compounds, traditional ornament and dress in natural light, and the forest surroundings as visual context for each frame.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Park Land, Balangir — Standard Room

Itinerary

DAY 6

Balangir to Shivrinarayan via Desia Kondh & Gond Villages

After breakfast, drive to Shivrinarayan. En route, we pass through tribal villages of the Desia Kondh and the Gond — two distinct indigenous communities with contrasting visual identities. The Desia Kondh share cultural roots with the Kutia Kondh but differ in attire and the absence of facial tattoos, though hand tattoos are present. The Gond are one of Chhattisgarh's largest and most prominent indigenous communities, celebrated for Gond painting — a complex traditional folk-art form of intricate pattern and symbolic language — as well as a deep spiritual relationship with nature. On arrival in Shivrinarayan, check-in to hotel.



Photographic Opportunities:

Gond painting in practice — pigment, pattern, and the painters at work in village settings. Desia Kondh women with hand-tattoo detail, traditional dress, and village architecture in forest light. Two neighboring tribal identities offering contrasting photographic registers encountered within a single Chhattisgarh drive.

 Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Itinerary

DAY 7

Shivrinarayan — Ramnami Samaj



A full day dedicated to the villages of the Ramnami Samaj — a devotional community living primarily in Chhattisgarh, along the Mahanadi River. Their defining practice: tattooing the name 'Ram' across every inch of their bodies using special ink. Those covered entirely are known as Purnanakshik. They also wear shawls printed with the name Ram and headgear made of peacock feathers. Their devotion led them to teach themselves to read and write in order to study the Ramcharitmanas, and from that foundation they developed their own musical and clothing traditions. The day is organized for our group to witness and document their cultural rituals — giving us rare access to this extraordinary community.



Photographic Opportunities:

Ram's name tattooed across every surface of skin and fabric — among the most visually extraordinary portrait subjects in India. Peacock-feather crowns in close detail, communal chanting in village courtyards, devotional expressions at every age, and the layered visual density of tattooed faces, inscribed shawls, and ritual dress in natural light.



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Raghav Inn, Shivnaryanpur — Deluxe Room

Itinerary

DAY 8

Shivrinarayan to Raipur via Rajim Kumbh Mela



After breakfast, drive toward Raipur. En route — 45 km before the city — we stop at Rajim to witness the Rajim Kumbh Mela, one of Chhattisgarh's most significant spiritual gatherings. The festival is held at the sacred Triveni Sangam of the Mahanadi, Pairi, and Sondur rivers, celebrated around Maghi Purnima. Thousands of devotees, saints, and pilgrims converge for a sacred river dip believed to purify the soul and bring spiritual blessings. The mela fills with devotional chants, religious discourses, and evening aarti along the riverbanks. For the documentary photographer the scenes are remarkable: colorful processions, ash-covered sadhus, warm lamp-glow reflected on moving water.

Photographic Opportunities:

Ash-covered sadhus at the Triveni Sangam, mass bathing scenes, lamp-lit aarti on the Mahanadi at dusk, colorful devotional processions, and fire reflections on the sacred confluence — a sequence of light, movement, and devotion across the full arc of the day.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Mayfair Lake Resort, Raipur — Club Room

Itinerary

DAY 9

Raipur — Rajim — Delhi (Departure)



A final morning drive back to Rajim — approximately 90 km / 2 hours round trip — for a last session at the Rajim Kumbh Mela. Morning light on the Triveni Sangam is the most luminous hour for riverbank photography: pilgrims in devotional stance, the early mist lifting off the water, sadhus beginning their rituals at the confluence. After lunch, drive to Raipur airport to board IndiGo flight 6E 5349 to Delhi (ETD 17:55 / ETA 19:55 hrs). Baggage allowance: 15 kg checked, 7 kg hand luggage. On arrival in Delhi, participants connect independently to their outward international flights. End of services.

Photographic Opportunities:

Morning light on the Triveni Sangam — the day's most luminous hour for mela photography. Pilgrims in early devotional stance, last portrait sessions, the quieter side of the festival before the crowd builds. Final frames of an extraordinary journey before the drive to Raipur airport.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Morning transfer to Raipur airport.

What's included?

- 9 Days – 8 nights Itinerary
- Tour Leader photographer/expert Roberto Pazzi
- Reception at the airport on arrival and exit
- Transportation by air-conditioned vehicles Toyotas Innovas 3 people + driver or large buses
- Accommodation 3-4 stars local hotels
- All meals except the arrival and dinner on the last day
- All visits and tribal community access
- Expert local guide

Hotels: Local hotels mostly in the area. Please note that hotel standards are not comparable to those in more touristic or widely visited destinations. Nevertheless, in most cases, they represent the best accommodation available during that period.

What's Not included?

- Domestic Flights (Delhi–Bhubaneswar / Raipur–Delhi, cost approx. 180 US\$). We will book the flights on your behalf. This cost should be paid on booking and will not be refunded if you cancel your trip.
- International Flights
- Optional activities and visits
- Tipping to Guide and Driver
- Personal extras, such as drinks, laundry, telephone, etc.
- Visas
- Air taxes
- Airport taxes
- Any other item not mentioned as included

Special Notes

Required fitness

Moderate Fitness: A reasonable level of fitness is required. You will need to be able to walk for a few hours -most of the time taking pictures - at a gentle pace, remain standing, get on and off cars, planes, unassisted.

Local Flights

The domestic flight schedule is confirmed at time of booking. Day 2: Air India — Delhi to Bhubaneswar (morning departiré). Day 9: IndiGo 6E 5349 — Raipur to Delhi, ETD 17:55 / ETA 19:55. Baggage allowance: 15 kg checked, 7 kg hand luggage on both sectors. Should final prices vary, we will adjust accordingly.

Prices & Terms

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy.

MAIN TRIP

6-10 Participants - 6,900 US\$

SUPPLEMENTS

Single room surcharge main itinerary - 700 US\$

EXTENSION

PAYMENT TERMS BUDGET (PHOTOGRAPHER'S FEE & PHOTO TOUR)

Terms.- Subject to our General Terms.

-  Booking fee - 1,000 US\$
-  Second Payment: 4 Months before departure - 6,000 US\$
-  Third Payment: 2 Months before departure - Pending Balance

Cancellation by the client .- Failure to pay any scheduled installment within the required timeframe is considered a cancellation by the participant, and the relevant cancellation clause applies.

Insurance, Visa, Etc...

Insurance- **You are required to purchase insurance**, with the minimum suggested requirements listed hereunder, that is valid internationally, and you will be kindly asked to provide proof prior to departure for the trip in order to participate.

Minimum Insurance required.-

- Trip Cancellation Coverage
- Covid cancellation and assistance
- Accident & Sickness Medical Expense Coverage (minimum 100,000 US\$)
- Emergency Evacuation & Repatriation of Remains (minimum 200,000 US\$)
- Accidental Death / Dismemberment

Cancel for Any Reason Insurance.- (Recommended, but costly)

"Cancel For Any Reason" (CFAR) insurance is an optional upgrade on some insurance companies that allows you to cancel your trip for almost any reason — even if that reason is not covered by standard trip cancellation insurance. It gives you flexibility and partial reimbursement if your plans change unexpectedly.

Visa-

Visa arrangements remain the sole responsibility of each participant and must be handled independently or through a specialized visa service provider. Visa requirements and procedures may change at any time.

Should you need guidance, we will be pleased to assist you with practical information and support. Please note that the visa application process, any changes to requirements, and the final decision to grant or refuse a visa are entirely outside of our control and under the authority of the relevant consular or immigration bodies.



