Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) is a mystical country centred amongst South-East Asia’s more common destinations, yet still remaining relatively unknown. Myanmar is one of the least developed and least Western-influenced countries in the world, providing many attractive and unique photographic opportunities. From ancient civilisations to the friendly and happy people, Myanmar promises to be a feast for the lens and is highly regarded as one of the best destinations in the world for travel photography.
Day 1: Bangkok to Mandalay
Day 2: Mandalay
Day 3: Mandalay to Inle Lake
Day 4-5: Inle Lake
Day 6: Inle Lake to Bagan
Day 7-9: Bagan
Day 10: Bagan to Yangon
Day 11: Yangon
Day 12: Yangon to Bangkok
Mandalay, the centre of skilled craftsmanship and the religious centre of Buddhist Monks

U Bein Bridge, the world’s longest teak wood bridge

Inle Lake with its spectacular stilted villages, unique leg-rowing fisherman, bustling local markets and lakeside life

Bagan with more than 2000 temples, pagodas and other religious structures dating back to the early 11th century

Yangon, formerly known as Rangoon, with its impressive colonial and spiritual heritage and the magnificent 2500 year old Shwedagon Pagoda
Who travels with us?

There is no greater joy than travelling with people sharing a common interest, and once you understand the value of travelling on a dedicated photographic tour, you will most likely return for more photographic adventures. Approximately 50% of Spotlight on Asia’s travellers are repeat clients, with many intending to travel on further tours well into the future.

Two of the most common questions received by Spotlight on Asia are “do I need to be a good photographer to join the tour” or “is my camera good enough?” The tours accommodate photographers of all standards, from beginners with small compact cameras, to professional photographers with Digital SLRs and a variety of lenses. As long as you enjoy taking photographs, and wish to be presented the very best photographic opportunities, you will feel at home travelling on any of the tours. The only prerequisite is that you have a basic understanding of operating your camera.

In actual fact, Spotlight on Asia tours appeal to photographers and non-photographers alike, with many enthusiastic photographers bringing their non-photographic partners. If they have an appreciation for seeing a country, experiencing a culture and trying things not offered on standard tours, they will still have a great time. The only requirement of travelling is that they will need to exercise some patience. Whilst photographers enjoy their photography, non-photographers are more than welcome to venture off and explore on their own, or even better, be swept up in the photographic passion and learn the art of photography. Some non-photographic clients on past tours have thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and soon after invested in photographic equipment in preparation for the next Spotlight on Asia’s photographic tour.

The tours will appeal to people of all ages and experience. Most tours consist of travellers between 50 and 70 years of age, but have also accommodated as young as 20 and as old as 90 years of age. As long as those choosing to travel on a Spotlight on Asia tour are physically fit, they are more than welcome to join.

The important thing to remember is that your photographic expertise should never be the deciding factor in joining a Spotlight on Asia tour. We are happy to accommodate any standard of photographer, and look forward to not only presenting the very best photographic opportunities but also assisting you in taking amazing images.
Your photographic leader

Malcolm Fackender is an Australian award winning travel and commercial photographer who specializes in small group photographic tours to Asia. Malcolm has been involved with and successful at photography since a young teenager, winning a Gold Medal in 1985 at the age of seventeen. Initially Malcolm had a strong interest in macro and bird photography, but more recently developed a strong interest in travel photography, where he has broadened his photographic interests to cover many other genres. He is particularly interested in South-East Asia where he has taken in excess of 250,000 images over the past seven years.

Through his company Spotlight on Asia, and with the assistance of local and international travel agencies, Malcolm has successfully planned, arranged and led twenty small group photographic tours to Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar and China. Being passionate about photography, travel and just being around and inspiring fellow photographers, Malcolm intends to build his business to include many more countries in the years to come.

Having been involved with Photographic clubs for over 30 years, Malcolm previously held the position of President at Dooleys Camera Club in Sydney. In this role, Malcolm was always eager to share the knowledge he gained over the years with the members of the club as well as any other photographers and photographic clubs he associates with. Malcolm regularly conducts educational and inspirational photographic talks at various photographic clubs and has recently incorporated workshops into his business.

After an extended break from entering photographic competitions, Malcolm has recently been entering his photographs into numerous national and international photographic exhibitions, receiving a number of awards, including Silver and Bronze Medals and major prizes at the Taree Rodeo Photographic Competition. Not being a prolific entrant of competitions, Malcolm actually gets much more joy out of inspiring and teaching people than receiving awards. There is no greater joy than seeing or hearing about the successes that past clients have with images taken on a Spotlight on Asia tour.

Malcolm enjoys taking photographs and extending himself wherever possible. He believes that photography is a cycle of continuous improvement from a technical, hardware and creative perspective and as such looks forward to growing and extending his portfolio for many years to come.
“One goes no further if they want a photographic journey that is well planned and executed. Vast amount of attention is taken to details and flexibility to make changes when necessary. A well deserved experience and vacation will be had by all.”

MARVIN FINK | USA

“When I have the opportunity to travel with Spotlight on Asia, I always do. The planning and attention to detail is outstanding and I am never disappointed with the journey or the photographic opportunities.”

KAREN WOLLASTON | AUSTRALIA
Spotlight on Asia

SPOTLIGHT ON ASIA is an Australian business specialising in travel photography and small group photographic tours to Asia. With over 30 years of photographic experience as well as extensive experience in customer service, operations and project management, Spotlight on Asia strives to provide photographic tours that are uniquely specialised yet very affordable.

Unlike many other photographic tour companies, Spotlight on Asia designs the photographic tours from the ground up with photography in mind. This however does not mean you need to be a photographer to enjoy the tour. The tours appeal to photographers and non-photographers alike. Working with carefully selected local and international tour companies, the tour programs are designed to ensure that the very best photographic opportunities are on offer, but without neglecting all the other joys of travel, such as culture and cuisine.

VIETNAM was Spotlight on Asia’s first love and will remain so for many years to come. With extensive experience from travelling numerous times to Vietnam as well as a good understanding of the culture and business, Spotlight on Asia is able to provide outstanding tours with inclusions not offered by other tour companies.

THE MEKONG RIVER is one of the greatest in the world, so it was only natural that a tour would be introduced to explore the Mekong Delta region of Vietnam, then travelling into Cambodia to visit Phnom Penh, the Pearl of Indochina before concluding with the extensive

MYANMAR (formerly known as BURMA) is a mystical country centred amongst South-East Asia’s more common destinations, yet still remaining relatively unknown. Myanmar is one of the least developed and least Western-influenced countries in the world, providing many attractive and unique photographic opportunities. From ancient civilisations to the friendly and happy people, Myanmar promises to be a feast for the lens and is highly regarded as one of the best destinations in the world for travel photography.

With over a billion people, and being the seventh largest country in size, INDIA is a country of many personalities. From bustling cities to simple villages, the vibrant colours of India are like a kaleidoscope for the camera. Its lively bazaars, rich culinary traditions, spirituality, unique wildlife and world famous monuments are sure to appeal to every photographer.

SPOTLIGHT ON ASIA LOOKS FORWARD TO TRAVELLING WITH YOU.
Why Spotlight on Asia?

When considering your next photographic adventure, please ensure you compare Apples with Apples. Many people book standard tours only to return disappointed because they had no flexibility, were at the wrong place at the wrong time and had little opportunity to do any serious photography. It is also important to note that not every photographic tour is made equal. Ensure you choose a reputable tour, not just a standard tour that has been re-badged as a photographic tour. Your photographic tours should be designed from the ground up with photography in mind, led by an experienced photographer offering guidance and photographic instruction, and most importantly, offer exceptional value for money.

When designing the photographic tours, Spotlight on Asia conducts extensive research to identify suitable shoot locations, and then goes about planning the logistics to suit. Tour routes will make the most of the opportunities and hotels will be conveniently located so that early morning shoots are nearby. The entire program is very much about the photography, so if you are seeking a 5 star luxury rest and relaxation tour, this is not the tour to be on.

Spotlight on Asia tours are not only designed to deliver the very best photographic opportunities on offer, but also offer the opportunity to learn as you travel. Experienced photographers are more than welcome to go about their own photography as they see fit, but those requiring advice can be comforted in knowing that their photographic leader will be there with them every step of the way, inspiring and guiding them through the creative and technical aspects of photography. Being on a photographic tour with like-minded people also provides an opportunity for everyone to discuss and share their passion for photography.

Spotlight on Asia’s tours however are not only about photography. Travel is very much about people and culture, and as such, we always endeavour to introduce people to different cultures, traditional shows and local cuisine. You are guaranteed to not only return with many amazing images, but also great memories.

Finally, Spotlight on Asia knows all too well that photographers are often charged premium prices for photographic tours. By definition a photographic tour is a specialised tour, but that does not necessarily mean services are double in price. In some instances you are paying for one or more high profile photographers to lead the tour, but in most cases, you are blatantly being over charged for something that offers little more than a standard tour at half the price. It is Spotlight on Asia’s business philosophy to continually offer affordable photographic tours with inclusions that are second to none.

You can read feedback from past tours on SPOTLIGHT ON ASIA’s website.
Details

This tour will be jointly led by Malcolm Fackender and Elia Locardi of Dream Photo Tours.

DATE
17th January 2016

DURATION
12 days

PRICE(5)
USD$995 per person twin share without international airfare.

FLIGHTS(6)
International return airfare is not included in the tour price. Flights departing Sydney are estimated to be AUD $1550 depending on when purchased.

GROUP SIZE
Typically groups will be limited to 12 people

INCLUDING
- Domestic flights from Mandalay to Heho, Heho to Bagan and Bagan to Yangon
- Arrival/Departure transfers
- In country ground transport by private air-conditioned vehicle with driver
- Private boats as indicated in itinerary
- Two experienced photographic tour leaders
- Local English speaking tour guide
- Meals as specified in itinerary (B/L/D)
- Clean twin share accommodation (3 star or best available in isolated areas)
- Luggage handling at airports
- Purified drinking water
- Refreshment towels
- Passenger service charges at domestic airports and admission
- Ride and camera fees

NOT-INCLUDING
- Return international airfare (arriving in Mandalay, departing from Yangon)
- Visa
- Personal travel insurance (requirement of joining tour)
- Meals not indicated in program
- Additional beverages such as soft drinks and alcohol
- Activities during free time
- Laundry
- Items of personal nature
- Tips and gratuities (AU$6 per day)
- Excess baggage fee

(*) Any variation in fees will be passed on in full to participants. A single supplement surcharge will apply for anyone wanting a single room.

(**) International flights are not included in the tour price, and hence must be purchased separately. Price provided is for indication purposes only, and is subject to change prior to ticket issuance (due to weekly variations in Taxes and Surcharges).

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The 2016 Myanmar Photographic Tour will be run in partnership with Dream Photo Tours.

If you are interested in joining us on a Spotlight on Asia Tour or require additional information please contact:

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Email: info@spotlightonasia.com
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