

## recommended photography guidelines

### general guidelines

When in and around local people, endeavour not to be wielding your camera more than a maximum of say a quarter of your time. You will have a much richer experience actually getting to know people without a lens in the way objectifying people and when you do actually take photos after getting to know them, the pictures are likely to be more successful - and are of a new friend you have made, rather than 'capturing' a possibly unwilling or anonymous subject.

Maintain certain amount of distance from the subject. Taking the lens too close will intimidate people. Always ask permission if wishing to take portraits

Respect that people may not wish to be photographed when doing labouring, 'dirty' or jobs they may consider 'undignified'.

Avoid photographing children that are naked from the waist down, particularly without their parents consent.

If you are watching an art, musical or cultural performance, please don't use flash. It tends to distract the performers. Better still, check with the performers before you start taking pictures.

If you intend to publish this photograph, either in a personal blog, articles, publications, brochures, etc, please take approval from the people. Please do mention names and details of these community members, if a not a small description. This way people don't become cardboard cutouts.

### photography in small villages

Whenever visiting a small community in a group (say larger than 6), we suggest nominating a photographer to take photographs on behalf of the

group. This frees up individuals to interact with the local community in more meaningful ways. Not only is this a more considerate option for the local communities, but you also get to appear in the photographs too!

At the end of the village visits or wherever it is possible, digital photos can be cheaply and easily burned onto a CD for each group member. You can then have these photos printed at home or even in India in any of the major cities.

If taking portraits, always ask before taking a photograph, especially of women, private homes elderly men or private functions (such as a marriage or puja). RESPECT the right of refusal or resistance. NEVER 'buy' a photograph; this encourages a degenerative cycle of servitude and expectation.

### giving back

Ancient culture and folklore that would be otherwise lost, can be preserved in pictures. Share your photographs with local communities to encourage the preservation of their unique culture.

Beyond aesthetics, photographs serve to capture people, places and memories shared. Digital camera's have revolutionized the process and enhanced the interactive possibilities of photography.

Share your memories with your newfound friends. Ensure your photos reach respective community members (postal service in remote areas can be unreliable) by sending us your photos to distribute accordingly.

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