Photography in the Mountains of Nepal & Tibet, 2005

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Nepal and Tibet
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The tour started at Kathmandu (Nepal capital), which is about 5,000 feet.
First challenge, the weather. At Kathmandu, Nepal we boarded Buddha Air to photograph Mt. Everest and other Himalayan mountains. But due to clouds no mountains, no pictures.
Second challenge, rainy cloudy light.
Cremation ceremony on river in Kathmandu
Cremation must begin minutes after death
Another rainy day. These monks took me to their monastery.
Walking people are praying as they walking around the Stupa (next photo)
Great Boudhnath Stupa, principal Buddhist shrine in Kathmandu
Great Stupa up close. Note hundreds of people in lines. They are bucket brigades to move cement to people repairing structure. Such community contributions to the common good were common.
Look what a closer shot will do to your image colors and shapes
An even closer shot will change the whole story
View from the Great Stupa
Bucket brigades up close. Shooting from above got more action within a single shot.
Typical side street in Kathmandu after a rain
Obviously city infrastructure is poor

Photo taken at 200 ISO
1/160th at F/7.1
Lighting Yak Butter Candles. Both pictures taken without flash in dark Monastery. I tried a lot of compositions until getting the close up with hand.
Sadhus, Hindu Ascetic Holy Men
These sadhus are liberal, and perhaps not too holy, because they will smile for a buck.
Photos taken in Kathmandu on a dark evening with ISO 1000
Intent Faces on the Street in Kathmandu, Nepal
Next stop Lhasa, Tibet, home of the Portola at 12,000 feet. Guess what happened to our bodies and our computers.
Almost nothing but barley will grow in Tibet, but most Tibetans are farmers. They have planted 100s of thousands of willow trees in the valleys for erosion control and firewood. Unlike the Rockies, the mountains have no trees.

Tibetans have dark reddish skin, burned by the cruel sun at 12,000 plus feet altitude.

Cars are rare. Tiny tractors are common.
Photos taken at 14,500 feet at the Ganden Monastery, 2,000 feet about village. A 2-mile path circles the mountain top. I took the pilgrimage barely survived.
I thought this was my best shot from the mountain top, but it doesn't get ahs. What is wrong with it?
Solar heating in the mountains was commonplace.
Outside the Ganden Monastery (at 14,500 feet) building for dinning & meditation. This is surprisingly flimsy footwear for night time temps below freezing in early summer.
Everything inside monasteries and shrines was always very dark; flash was a must.
Representations of spirits, both good and evil, were everywhere inside religious rooms. Most were gold plated with many jewels. Glare is nearly impossible to avoid.
Monk meditating with aid of Yak butter candles
This is how they propagate so many more gold covered statues.
Photographing the Portola – how much difference an angle perspective
Typical father and child strolling in Jokhang Square in Lhasa, Tibet
At gray dawn, Tibetans stoking fires with willow branches in front of Jokhang Monastery in Lhasa.
Meditating with prayer wheel at dawn in Jokhang, Lhasa
This photo was selected for advertisements of the Colorado Mountain Center Tours.

ISO 1600, 1/16-th at F/6.3, 300mm
Monks in debate ritual at Sera Monastery in Lhasa, Tibet
Man circulating Jokhang Monastery with prayer wheel in Lhasa
Boy monks playing gyalings at Mindroling Monastery in Tibet
100 meters away, other boy monks playing long bass horns at Mindroling Monastery in Tibet
Seventy-year old nun at Sang-ngag Zimche Nunnery in Tsedang, Tibet
Prostration Walk for 300 miles to Lhasa It consists of a rhythm of 3 steps, 3 hand claps, falling to the ground, getting up, and repeating it over & over.