

PORTFOLIO SERIES

LIFE | BHUTAN

Photographs by Peter Eastway

PETER EASTWAY

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L I F E | B H U T A N

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Taktsang Palphug Monastery, near Paro.

Camera Data Phase One A-Series IQ4 150MP,
23mm, f8 @ 30 seconds.

Exposure

f5.6 @ 1/1 sec, ISO 50

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Some people ride a small pony. Most walk. And it takes a lot longer to climb up to Taktsang Palphug Monastery, locally known as the Tiger's Nest, than it does to come down.

Taktsang is Bhutan's most recognisable landmark and religious centre. It's an hour or so to the top, but beware of congratulating yourself too soon. About two thirds of the way up, there's a tea house and you start to relax because you think you're almost there. After a drink and a short break, you continue up until you eventually reach a higher vantage. From here you can look straight across to the monastery nestled precariously into the opposite mountain. The killer is that to get over there, you first have to descend 1000 or more steps and then climb back up the other side!

But it's worth it.

Perhaps doubly so because you're not allowed to take photographs inside. A guard checks you for your smartphone and cameras before you're allowed to climb the final giant steps, into a complex of ancient temples with wonderful sculptures and a cacophony of colour. If there aren't too many

other people around, it's a levelling experience just to stand quietly in these hallowed rooms, soaking up the atmosphere and the silence.

Legend has it that in the 8th century, Guru Rinpoche (Padmasambhava) flew to Taktsang on the back of a tigress from Khenpajong in Tibet. He meditated in a small cave which now lies underneath the temples, anointing the location for building a monastery. Over the following centuries, many Tibetan saints and priests visited Taktsang, including Milarepa, but it wasn't until the 14th century that the first temple was built.

The current buildings were rebuilt after a fire in 1958 and then repaired after another fire in 1998. Butter lamps and electrical faults were blamed, so sensibly today, there's a special fire-proof room set aside for lighting the obligatory candles that are so much a part of the life of Bhutan.

Peter Eastway

































As the monk rings a ceremonial bell,
Tshangkha villagers perform prayers in their
community temple.

Camera Data Phase One IQ3 100MP Trichr,
Schneider Kreuznach LS 55mm f/2.8

Exposure

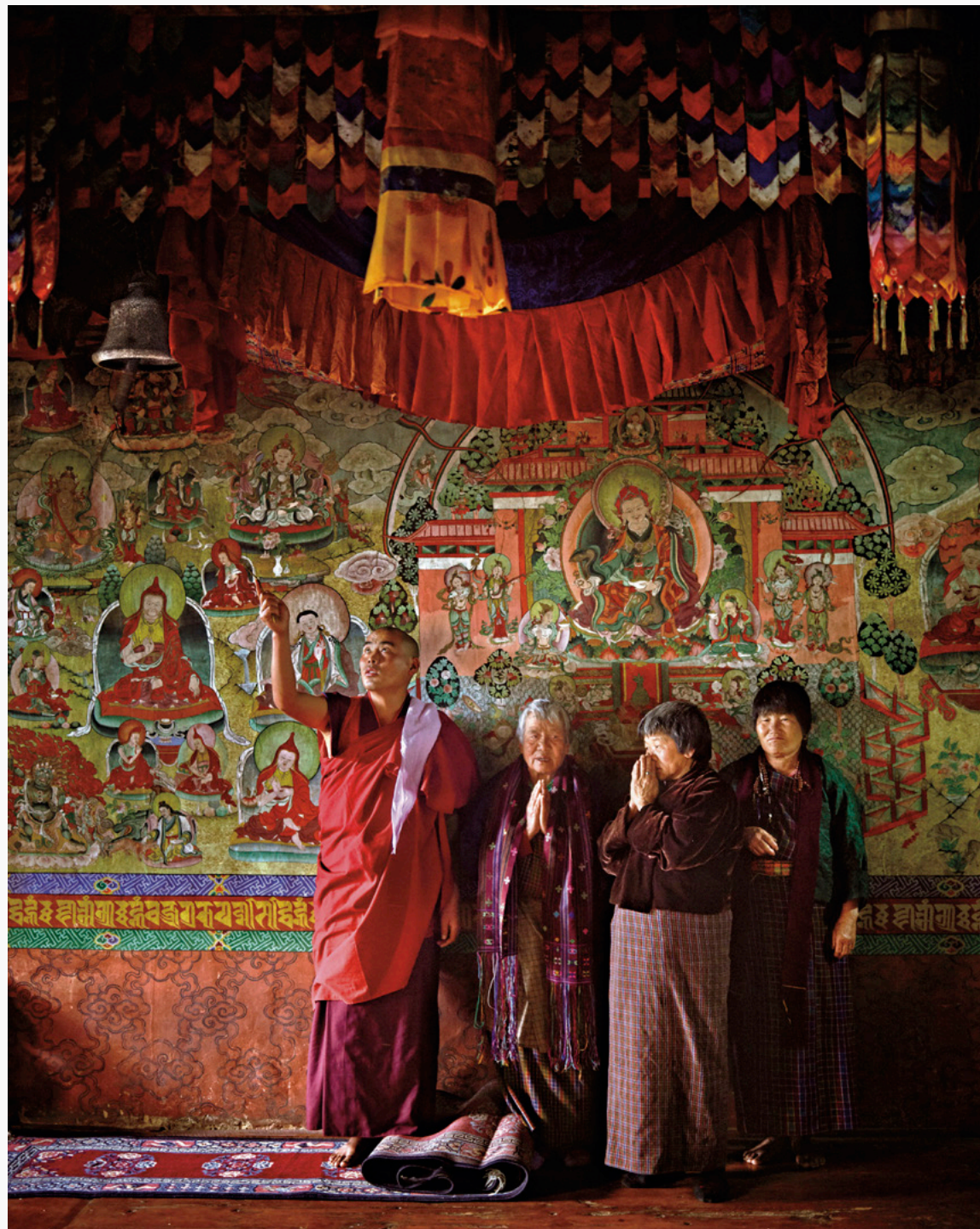
f2.8 @ 1/40 sec, ISO 3200

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A fire in the morning – it's hard to tell if it is to boil water or part of a religious ritual. On different occasions, perhaps it is both. Tshangkha Village.

Camera Data Phase One IQ3 100MP Trichr,
Schneider Kreuznach LS 55mm f/2.8

Exposure

f2.8 @ 1/40 sec, ISO 800

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A village elder with cataracts in one eye.
Ogyen Choling..

Camera Data Canon EOS 5DS R,
Canon EF 100mm f/2.8 Macro USM

Exposure

f4.0 @ 1/320 sec, ISO 400

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The temple caretaker in good cheer during a three day ceremony at Ogyen Choling.

The traditional ara (a local brew) flows freely.

Camera Data Nikon D800E, 85.0 mm f/1.8. Exposure f1.8 @ 1/125 sec, ISO 3200.

Grandmother and child. Ogyen Choling.

Camera Data Nikon D800E,

85.0 mm f/1.8

Exposure

f1.8 @ 1/800 sec, ISO 100

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Harvesting rice, near Bondey.

Camera Data Canon EOS 5DS R,
EF300mm f/2.8L IS USM +2x III

Exposure

f5.6 @ 1/1000 sec, ISO 250

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Even close to urban centres, cultivating rice is important for local families as a source of income.

Between Paro and the capital, Thimphu.

Camera Data Nikon D800E, 14.0-24.0 mm f/2.8. Exposure f9.0 @ 1/250 sec, ISO 100.







The Tachogang Lhakhang Bridge no longer takes foot traffic, replaced by a more modern version sitting a few metres downstream.

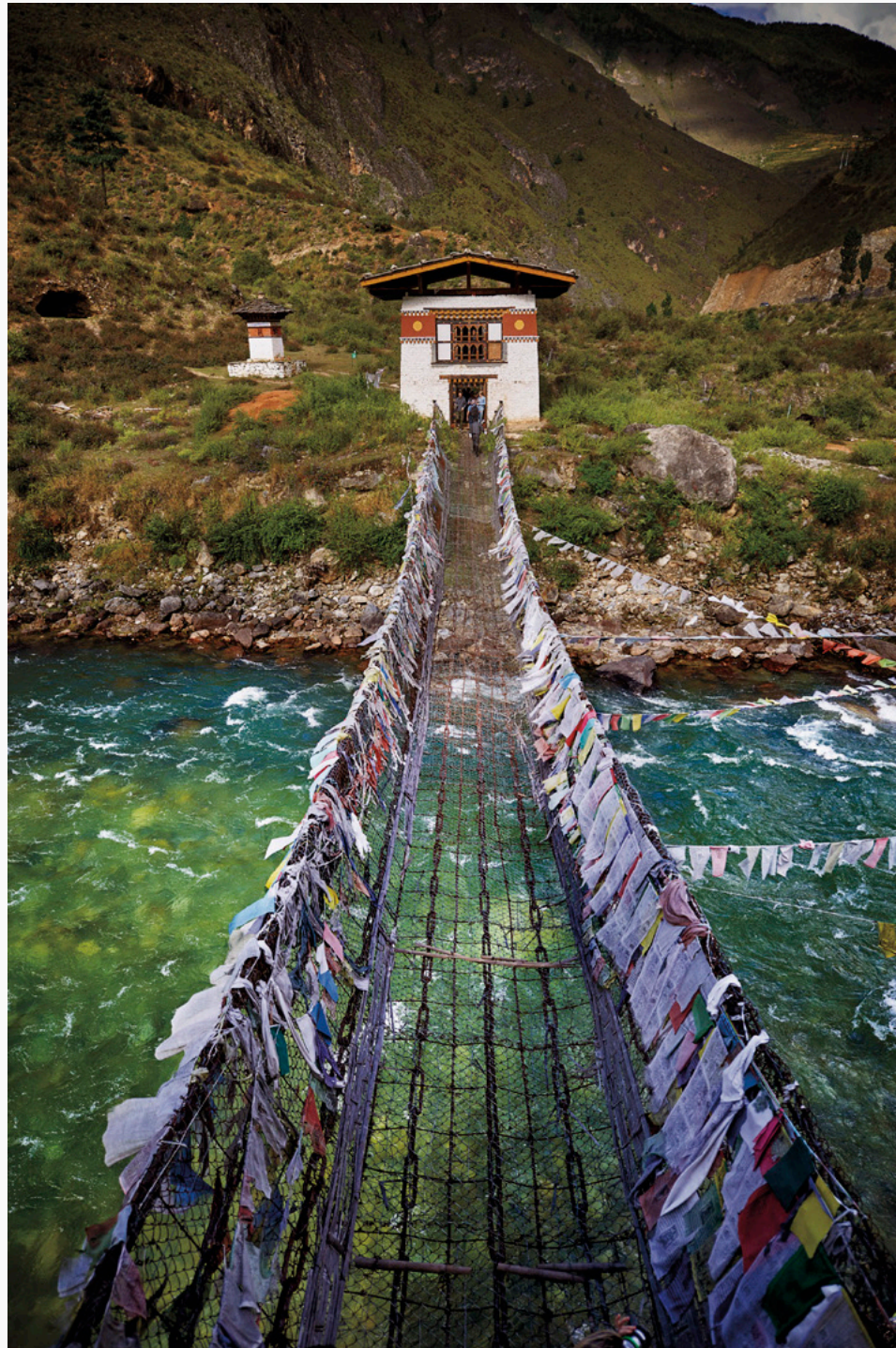
Camera Data Nikon D800E,
14.0-24.0 mm f/2.8
Exposure
f2.8 @ 10/5000 sec, ISO 100

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Rinpung Dzong or 'Fortress of Heap of Jewels' is commonly called Paro Dzong and originally built in 1644. However, most dzongs have been rebuilt multiple times over the centuries.

Camera Data Nikon D800E, 70.0-200.0 mm f/2.8. **Exposure** f4.0 @ 1/320 sec, ISO 100.

Rain cell near Pele La.

Camera Data Phase One IQ3 100MP Trichr,
Schneider Kreuznach LS 110mm f/2.8

Exposure

f6.3 @ 1/500 sec, ISO 35

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Candles are an integral part of Bhutanese life.

To an outsider, it seems there is always an important reason to light one.

Camera Data Phase One IQ3 100MP Trichr, Schneider Kreuznach LS 55mm f/2.8. Exposure f2.8 @ 1/800 sec, ISO 1600.

Statuette inside a candle room, Pele La (pass)..

Camera Data Phase One IQ3 100MP Trichr,
Schneider Kreuznach LS 55mm f/2.8

Exposure

f2.8 @ 1/100 sec, ISO 800

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Trashigang Dzong.

Camera Data Phase One IQ3 100MP Trichr,
Schneider Kreuznach LS 110mm f/2.8

Exposure

f11.0 @ 30 seconds, ISO 35

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Thimphu Chu (river), below Tango Gampa
(monastery)

Camera Data Phase One IQ180,
23mm Rodenstock
Exposure
f11 @ 30 seconds, ISO 100

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Two novice monks share a story during a festival at Gangtey Monastery, Phobjikha Valley.

Camera Data Nikon D800E,

70.0-200.0 mm f/2.8

Exposure

f2.8 @ 1/500 sec, ISO 200

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Prayer flags, Pele La.

Camera Data Nikon D800E,
70.0-200.0 mm f/2.8
Exposure
f5.6 @ 30 seconds, ISO 100

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Road side prayer flags. Prayer flags can be raised for many different reasons and then left to deteriorate over time.

Camera Data Phase One IQ3 100MP,
A-Series, 23mm Rodenstock
Exposure
f11 @ 50 seconds, ISO 50

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Peter Eastway - Biography

- 1958 Born Melbourne, Victoria
- 1960 Moved to Sydney, NSW
- 1974 First place, Northern Sydney Schools Photography Competition
- 1976 Joined Mosman Camera Club and met Elizabeth Lough
First place, Snap Your Cat, Whiskas pet food photography competition
- 1977 Santa Claus photographer, Neutral Bay
- 1978 Bachelor of Economics, Sydney University
- 1979 First place, Goethe Institute Photographic Competition for Young Australians

Career Highlights

- 1978 First photos published in Australian Photography magazine monthly competition
First surfing photos published in Australian Surfing World Magazine
- 1980 Became regular contributor to Australian Camera Craft Magazine
- 1981 Inclusion in the international Minolta Mirror (annual), published in Japan
- 1988 Ferry to Mosman book and exhibition with Paul Burrows and Phillip Ramsden for the Australian Bicentennial Celebrations
- 1986 Associate of Australian Institute of Professional Photography AIPP Kodak Achievement Award
- 1995 First issue of Better Photography magazine, published with wife Kathie – still being published in 2026
- 1995 Master of Photography, AIPP
- 1998 Purchased Australian Surfing World magazine with Doug Lees, Mark Eymes and John (Reggae) Elliss
- 2001 First issue of Better Digital magazine, co-published with Robin Nichols, published until 2013
- 2004 First issue of Better Photoshop Techniques magazine, co-published with Robin Nichols and Philip Andrews, then published until 2013.
Surfing World shoot in the Mentawai Islands, Indonesia with Danny Wills, Dean Morrison, Jay Thompson, Matt Wilkinson, Mitch Coleburn, Tim Baker and Lance Knight.
- 2005 Chairman, Australian Professional Photography Awards, held for six years.

- 2006 AIPP Grand Master of Photography
Panasonic Japan – camera range catalogue shoot
Chillfactor Magazine – Niseko shoot
- 2008 Adobe Lightroom – research trip with Adobe programmers in Tasmania with Mikkel Aaland
Panasonic Japan – second camera range catalogue shoot
- 2009 First voyage to Antarctica, South Georgia and the Falklands
PNG shoot for Tourism PNG
- 2012 Apple uses iceberg photograph for Macbook Pro TV commercial
- 2012 Phase One – produced Capture One 6 instructional video series in Denmark
- 2006 Dairy Australia book project with Ken Duncan
- 2010 The Pilbara Project with Christian Fletcher, Les Walkling, Tony Hewitt and Michael Fletcher. The genesis of the Ninety Degrees Five (ND5) collective.
- 2012 Australian postage stamp – Farming Australia series
- 2014 Introduced International Landscape Photographer of the Year Awards with David Evans and Nathan Oxley
- 2015 Antarctica shoot with Abraham Joffe for Tales By Light television series, in partnership with Canon, Nat Geo Channel and (subsequently) Netflix.

Exhibitions

- 1979 Photography for Living With, Cave Group, Printers Gallery, Crows Nest, NSW
Goethe Institute Travelling Exhibition, West Germany
- 1981 Festival of Sydney Photography, A Creative Approach, NSW
- 1988 Ferry To Mosman - Australian BiCentennial Celebration, Mosman with Paul Burrows and Phillip Ramsden
- 2003 Away - exhibition and book with David Oliver, Gallery Xposure, Rozelle, NSW
- 2004 Spirit exhibition, Neutral Bay, NSW with Joanne Felk, Tania Niwa and David Oliver
- 2011 Rockhopper, Gaffa Gallery, Sydney
The Pilbara Project, FORM Gallery, Perth,
The Pilbara Project, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland
- 2012 The Pilbara Project: The Photographers’ Cut, Midlands, Perth
The Pilbara Project, Sofitel Hotel, Melbourne
ND5 Travel Expo, Exhibition Halls, Perth
The Pilbara Project, Oz Fest, New Delhi, India

- South West Light, Yallingup Gallery, Yallingup
- 2013 At The Edge of the Light, Australian High Commission, Wellington, New Zealand
At The Edge of the Light, WPPI Exhibition, Las Vegas, USA
At The Edge of the Light, The Digital Show, Melbourne
2016 Shark Bay - Inscription, Lynton & Kay Gallery, Perth
- 2014 2016 Shark Bay - Inscription, Maud Creative Gallery, Brisbane
At The Edge of the Light, Millenium Public Art Gallery, Blenheim, New Zealand
- 2015 North + East, Maud Creative Gallery, Brisbane
Earth Matters, Monash Gallery, Melbourne
- 2016 2016 Shark Bay - Inscription, Denham, W.A.

Major Awards

- 1995 NSW AIPP Professional Photographer of the Year
- 1995 AIPP Australian Landscape Photographer of the Year
- 1996 NSW AIPP Professional Photographer of the Year
- 1996 AIPP Australian Landscape Photographer of the Year
- 1996 AIPP Australian Professional Photographer of the Year
- 1998 AIPP Australian Landscape Photographer of the Year
- 1998 AIPP Australian Professional Photographer of the Year
- 2004 NSW AIPP Professional Photographer of the Year
- 2004 AIPP Australian Illustrative Photographer of the Year
- 2005 Grand Award, WPPI, Commercial Category
- 2007 New Zealand Overseas Photographer of the Year
- 2008 Grand Award, WPPI, Commercial Category
- 2009 1st, 2nd, 3rd Landscape Category, WPPI, Commercial Category
- 2009 Kodak Award of Distinction, WPPI
- 2010 Finalist, International Section, FEP European Professional Photographer of the Year Awards
- 2010 1st Place, SWPP and BPPA, Natural World Category, UK
- 2010 NSW AIPP Landscape Photographer of the Year
- 2010 NSW AIPP Commercial Photographer of the Year
- 2010 NSW AIPP Professional Photographer of the Year
- 2011 Finalist, FEP European Fine Art Photograph of the Year
- 2013 NSW Landscape Photographer of the Year
- 2018 AIPP Photography Book of the Year (Middlehurst – Middle Earth)
- 2019 NSW AIPP Professional Photographer of the Year
- 2019 AIPP Australian Professional Nature Photographer of the Year



Peter Eastway's
PHOTO PROCESS
CREATIVE & TECHNICAL ATELIER

Photo Process is a series of video tutorials that shares a wide range of techniques, concepts and processes that I use every time I take a photograph. These processes have evolved over 40 years of photography.

When teaching photography, I find many students have great ideas, but don't know how to implement them. Or they have great technical skills, but nothing to use them on! While I can help solve their immediate problems, the solution is relying on my skills, not theirs. And unfortunately it's not possible to transfer all of my knowledge and experience in a few hours or even days.

I'm also asked, how do I seem to immediately know what to do when I'm faced with a subject? Why do I always seem to have a solution? The answer is my 'database' of skills and influences collected throughout my career. It's my professional experience.

So how do I share this experience? The aim of **Photo Process** is to collect these skills, influences and experiences into a single location so they can be easily shared with photographers searching for their own answers. It's a knowledge bank of what I

use when I create my photographs, so if you like how I work, the answers are in **Photo Process**!

When you join **Photo Process**, you receive:

- Access to the **Photo Process** section of the website with over 80 video tutorials in categories – Capture, Composition, Post-Production, Influences and Output. It is a lifetime subscription, so there's no hurry to view all the content.
- A comprehensive portfolio review by Peter – you can submit up to 10 images for critique, feedback and appraisal. The written report will be presented as a PDF.
- A personally printed, signed and embossed A2 print by Peter on Canson stock using archival pigment inks from Epson – and you can select the photograph you'd like printed from his website (www.petereastway.com). The print is unframed and postage is included.

For full details, visit the Better Photography Education website and follow the menu to Photo Process

www.betterphotographyeducation.com



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