

ATACAMA

MY TRAVEL PARTNER

BOLIVIA

ALTIPLANO

PHOTOGRAPHIC TOUR

Otherworldly is the first thing that comes to mind when you see the awe-inspiring landscape of Atacama Desert in Northern Chile and the Altiplano region of Bolivia. The landscape is surreal, with unique light that is seemingly easy to photograph throughout the day. Atacama with its dramatic desert wilderness, lagoons and colourful flamingos is surrounded by the volcanic mountains of the Andes. Higher up in the Andean plateaus of Atacama and Bolivia, beautiful lagoons, snow-capped volcanoes and some of the most colourful geological landforms are scattered throughout the stark desert landscape., including one of the world's most spectacular sights, Salar de Uyuni, the largest salt flat in the world. This is an adventurous photographic tour not to be missed.



Spotlight on Asia



Malcolm Fackender

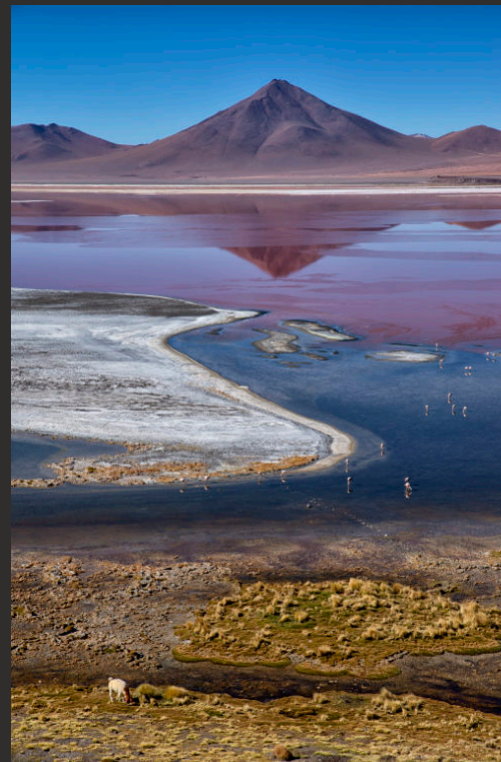
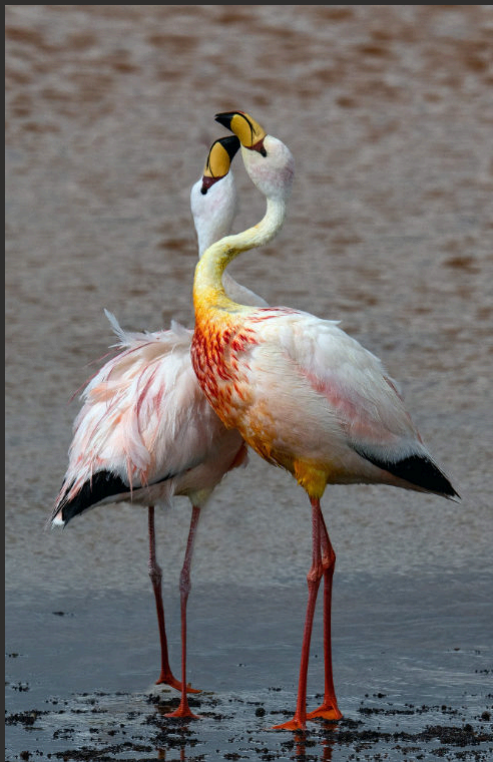


Spotlight on Africa

PROGRAM



- Day 01: Arrive Santiago (D)
- Day 02: Santiago - Calama - San Pedro de Aracama (B/L/D)
- Day 03: Atacama Desert (B/D)
- Day 04: Atacama Desert (B/L/D)
- Day 05: Atacama Desert (B/D)
- Day 06: Atacama Desert - Villamar Mallcu (B/L/D)
- Day 07: Villamar Mallcu - Uyuni (B/L/D)
- Day 08: Uyuni (B/L/D)
- Day 09: Uyuni (B/L/D)
- Day 10: Uyuni - Siloli Desert (B/L/D)
- Day 11: Siloli Desert - San Pedro de Atacama (B/L/D)
- Day 12: Atacama - Departure (B/L)







HIGHLIGHTS

- Moon Valley and Mars Valley
- El Tatio Geysers
- Miscanti and Miñiques Altiplano lagoons, Tuyacto, and the famous Piedras Rojas also known as Salar de Talar.
- The village of Tononao and Laguna Chaxa
- Laguna Tebiquinche for sunset
- Astrophotography tour

- Laguna Verde & Laguna Blanca
- Laguna Colorada
- Uyuni, the world's largest salt flat
- Train Graveyard
- Necropolis and Coral Army
- Numerous altiplano lagoons
- Seven Colours Mountain
- Sol de Mañana Geysers
- Beautiful flamingos and much, much more.....





YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC LEADER

Malcolm Fackender is an Australian award winning travel photographer who specializes in small group photographic tours. With more than 30 years in the photography industry, Malcolm initially focused primarily on nature photography, however has broadened his photographic interests over the years to encompass many other genres, including travel, people and landscape photography.

Since 2007 Malcolm has led photographers of all skill levels on over 70 small group photographic tours to Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar (Burma), China, India, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia, Uganda, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Scotland, Iceland, Italy, Chile, Bolivia and Cuba. 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.

Malcolm believes that photography is a cycle of continuous improvement from a technical, hardware and creative perspective and, as such, perpetually continues his own growth as a photographer.

Malcolm's proud to be affiliated with and/or an ambassador for the following brands:-





WHY TRAVEL WITH US?

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, Malcolm 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.

Our 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.

Malcolm'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, we know 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 our philosophy to continually offer affordable photographic tours with inclusions that are second to none!







It started with an off-the-cuff, short-notice email from Malcolm. Did I want to go on a semi-scouting trip to Chile and Bolivia with a small group of friends? I thought why not? I'd heard it was beautiful from a past work colleague who would visit the Atacama Desert every year which I thought at the time to be a bit fanatical.

I'd been on several trips with Malcolm before and nothing ever went wrong. Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar and Iceland were wonderful tours – conducted with military grade planning where everything was thought of and provided. All I had to do was press the shutter button. Great food, great company and above all, great photography. However, nothing really prepared me for Chile and Bolivia.

I loved the vibrancy of Chile where everybody seemed to be young. While waiting to meet the main group in Santiago, I took the opportunity to wander the streets for an evening. The city was alive with artwork in the most unexpected of places. This was followed by a day in Valparaiso which was covered in the most wonderful artwork everywhere. It is one of the most beautiful and unique cities I have seen.

Then came the incredible and spectacular wonders of the Altiplano in both Chile and Bolivia. From Moon Valley to Rainbow Valley to the geysers to Piedras Rojas to Lake Colarada to Uyuni, the wonders and highlights just kept coming. Every time, I would think to myself "what is this place?". I could not believe the natural beauty of the places we visited where any direction would present show-stopping panoramas of unspoiled magnificence.

A part of me wants to keep it all quiet. The isolation and pristine nature of the Altiplano is a big part of its magic. But another part wants to share the wonder that I felt when there. All I can say is please respect it. It is a beautiful, unique and magical place. I left a big part of my heart there and now if I could, I would visit it every year too.

John | Australia



"I was extremely privileged to travel with Malcolm and a very small group to Atacama and the Bolivian Altiplano in March 2018. The tour was well orchestrated to allow us all to experience as much of these beautiful countries as possible in the short time we were there. Each day offered many different experiences and from sunrise to sunset we were kept in awe by the ever changing landscape, animal and bird life and weather. The challenge of catching flamingos in flight against the stunning backdrop of lakes ringed by volcanoes provided healthy competition for the photo of the day!

Our local drivers/guides were excellent and there were many funny moments with Malcolm's one way "translator"! which unfortunately didn't translate Spanish to English but a laugh and a smile overcame our lack of Spanish. The experience of a sharing a bottle of wine and shooting the sunset whilst wearing gumboots and trying to keep my feet warm on Salar de Uyuni is an experience I will never forget.

Thank you Malcolm for a brilliant tour, it was as usual beyond expectation."

Robin Maxted | Australia



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 travellers are repeat clients, with many intending to travel on further tours well into the future.

Two of the most common questions received by interested travellers 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 SLR's 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 tour. The only prerequisite is that you have a basic understanding of operating your camera.

In actual fact, the photographic tours appeal to photographers and non-photographers alike, with many enthusiast photographers bringing their non-photographic partners. If they have 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 their next 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 the 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 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.







DETAILS

DATE

2 - 13 March 2023 (12 Days)

PRICE(*)

US \$7295* land only per person twin share. A **single supplement of US \$550** will also apply for single travellers.

International airfare departing Sydney estimated at AU \$1800** per person.

GROUP SIZE

Minimum group size of 5, maximum group size of 8 with one photographic tour leader and local drivers/guides as appropriate.

TRANSPORT

Transport in Chile will be dependent on final numbers however we will be travelling in 4WD vehicles (Toyota Landcruiser or similar) in Bolivia with each vehicle taking 3 photographers.

* Any variations in fees will be passed on in full to participants.

** Subject to change prior to ticket issuance (due to weekly variations in Taxes and Surcharges)

Details of price inclusions/exclusions for individual tours can be found on www.spotlightonasia.com

INCLUDING

- The complete tour as per itinerary
- Transfers if arriving/departing with the group leader
- Return flight from Santiago to Calama
- Meals as specified (B/L/D)
- Ground transport with experienced driver/guide
- Accommodation
- Experienced Australian Photographic Leader/Tour Leader and local guides where required

NOT-INCLUDING

- Return International Flights to Sanitago
- Travel Insurance
- Expenses of a personal nature (laundry, phone calls, personal tipping etc.)
- Any meals other than those specified
- Any drinks (alcoholic or non-alcoholic)
- Optional tours/activities
- Items of a personal nature
- Excess baggage fee
- Tips and gratuities
- Reciprocity and Visa fees

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This is a high altitude tour travelling up to 5000m. The itinerary has been carefully designed to allow sufficient time to acclimatise to the high altitude through daily excursions. It is however suggested you seek medical advice and enquire about taking some form of altitude medication.



CONTACT

If you are interested in joining us on
this amazing photographic tour
or require additional information
please contact:

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