

Himalaya Journey Camera and Photography Guidelines and Policies

At Himalaya Journey, we highly encourage taking plenty of photos everyday capturing the amazing landscape and unique culture of the Himalayas. However, it is important to remember that the Himalayas are a politically sensitive region. This is especially true of Tibet. The following basic guidelines and policies are not meant to prohibit you from taking photographs, but are in place to help you avoid any potential problems. By joining any of Himalaya Journey's tours, the client agrees to the following camera and photography/filming policies:

Inside Temples and Monasteries

At many temples and monasteries across the Himalaya, photographing and filming inside is prohibited. Some temples, such as those in Tibet, allow inside photography for a fee. During all journeys that we arrange, any photography or filming fees are the clients responsibility to cover.

Police and Military Personnel

Clients should never photograph or film police or military personnel. Doing so, particularly in Tibet, can cause you as well as the local staff of Himalaya Journey, to have problems. Do not even joke like you are taking photos of police or military personnel. Your local guide will remind you of this at the start of your journey.

The King and Royal Family of Bhutan

Clients on any of our Bhutan Journeys must not photograph or film the king or any member of the Royal Family. This includes the king's palace, the guards outside the king's palace or any vehicle you may encounter that is carrying a member of the Royal family.

Political Protests

In the *unlikely event* that you see a political protest, especially in Tibet, you are not permitted to photograph it. Doing so will almost certainly cause you to be in serious trouble with local authorities (again, particularly in Tibet).

Professional Filmmakers

Himalaya Journey has worked with numerous documentary and professional filmmakers over the years, including BBC, The Discovery Channel and Animal Planet. If you are intending to make a professional film or documentary in the Himalaya, you must notify us of that upon booking. Himalaya Journey will not be allowed to take professional filmmakers on tours if they have not notified us in advance that they are professional filmmakers. Himalaya Journey will also not be permitted to take travelers who are carrying large, professional video cameras, unless they first notify us upon booking.

Professional Journalists

Professional journalists are banned from traveling to Tibet, unless they have all of the proper permits and paperwork. Himalaya Journey cannot arrange tours to Tibet for any professional journalists.

Super Telephoto Lenses

In some regions of the Himalaya, particularly in Tibet, having a super telephoto lens or even a lens that looks like it is super telephoto, can cause you to have problems with local authorities.

Himalaya Journey requires clients to let us know if they plan to take a lens to Tibet that has a focal length of *more than* 300mm so that we can give you special instruction.

Military Bases, Radio Towers, Government Buildings

Clients who join a tour with Himalaya Journey must not photograph or film any military bases, large radio towers, government buildings that house military or police personnel or some bridges that have photography restrictions.

Photographing People

Himalaya Journey highly encourages clients to take photos of day-to-day life as well as local people they come across. However, we require that you first get the permission of the person before taking a photo of them. Your local guide is there to help translate for you in cases where communication is difficult.

If you have any questions about any of our Camera and Photography Policies, please email us at: **info@himalayajourney.com**