

# BURMA

Behind the  
scenes with  
**Steve McCurry**

**9 days of adventure**

better  
moments





# Better Moments means



Thanks for choosing Better Moments for your next adventure workshop.

Better Moments was founded in 2011 by Philip Boissevain and me, two experienced veterans of the international professional photography industry. We met when working at Hasselblad, Philip as the Global Marketing manager and me as the Global Photographer Relations manager.

Today Better Moments has become the leading photo workshop platform organizing high-end workshops for photo enthusiasts worldwide.

You will learn from the world's most experienced photographers within their fields to refine your personal style and sharpen your technical skills. Additionally, we want you to share your excitement for photography and enjoy great moments in life. And we want you to explore your passion and expand your photographic skills and vision.

Better Moments mission is to deliver exclusive workshops in landscape, wildlife and travel photography at unique locations around the world. I want you to explore your passion for photography and work and earn from the world's most renowned photographers who all have excellent teaching skills, local knowledge and experience.

Photography with passion,  
Christian Nørgaard

**better  
moments**



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Christian Nørgaard

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Photo above by David Trud

Cover photo by Steve McCurry

# Photography with passion

## Our passionate experts

Steve McCurry - National Geographic, World Press Photo first place

Sisse Brimberg - National Geographic photographer

Peter Eastway - AIPP Grand Master of Photography, Publisher Better Photography Magazine

Steve Bloom - National Geographic photographer

Arne Hodalič - National Geographic photographer & photo editor

Hamid Sardar-Afkhami - writer, photographer, award-winning filmmaker

Lars van de Goor - Hasselblad Master Landscape photographer

Tom D. Jones - Hasselblad Master & European Fine Art photographer

Joel Santos - Travel Photographer Of The Year

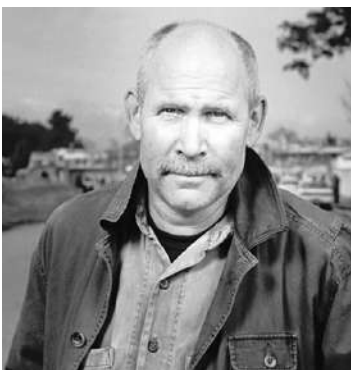
Michael Nichols - wildlife journalist, National Geographic editor

Orsolya Haarberg - Natural History Museum Wildlife Photographer Of The Year

Marco Di Lauro - World Press Photo Award

Magali Tarouca - journalist, teacher, travel photography guide

Christian Nørgaard - CEO Better Moments



**"My life is shaped by the urgent need to wander and observe, and my camera is my passport."**

Steve McCurry















# Explore Burma

Burma is one of the few countries in Asia that has preserved its deep religious and historical roots. Today, the country has just started opening up for foreign visitors and we are pleased to offer a workshop to this alluring land led by award-winning photographer Steve McCurry.

Drift down the Irrawaddy to capture life along the river, admire the thousand-year-old temples and pagodas that dot this magnificent country. Dig into the myriad dishes of the local cuisine, from a hearty bowl of mohinga noodles for breakfast to the fermented tea-leaf mixture that's a popular finish to a Burmese meal. Swap cocktails and canapés for snacks and tea sweetened with condensed milk at tea houses where you can chat with locals.



PHOTO BY STEVE MCCURRY



# Expand with passion

Better Moments' mission is to deliver exclusive workshops and we want you to explore your passion for photography and work with one of the best photographers, Steve McCurry, during your Burma workshop.

## ■ ON LOCATION

- Learning and training in the best techniques
- Composition and focus on lines, golden section, perspective, foreground
- Work in different lighting and with short/long exposure times and aperture
- How to handle equipment with care on location
- Private hands-on lessons that can help take your photography skills to the next level
- How to approach locals in a natural way The secrets behind travel and reportage photography

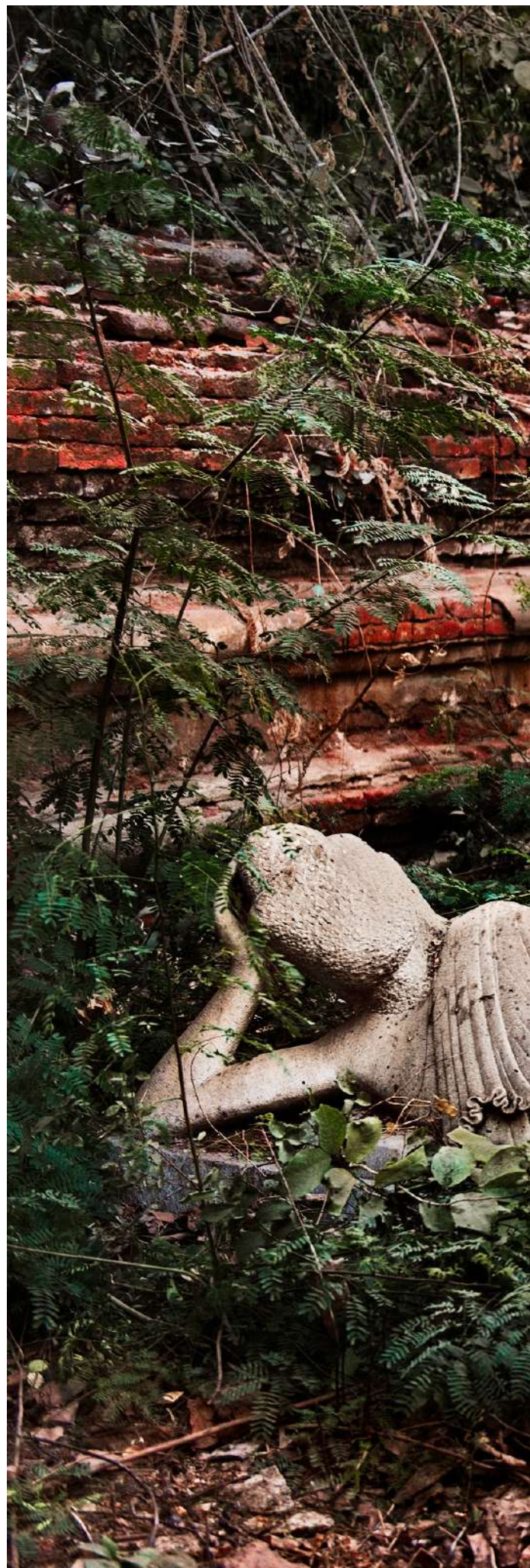
## ■ IN CLASSROOM

- Expert review and constructive criticism of the images taken during the day
- How to create portraits of daily life in villages we visit
- Portfolio review
- Presentation of Steve McCurry's work
- A Better Moments Certified Photo Instructor is available during the entire workshop to offer assistance with camera settings, the basics of composition, and to generally guide and help.

PRICE & BOOKING



PHOTO BY STEVE MCCURRY

















# Explore Burma together with award winning photographer Steve McCurry

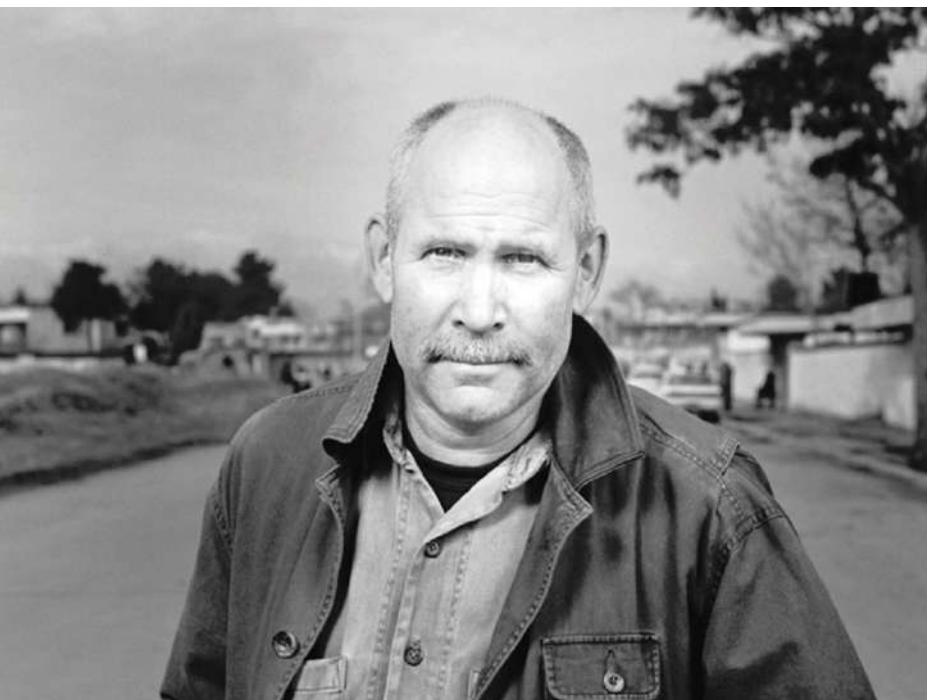


PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN NØRGAARD

**"The photograph is an undeniably powerful medium. Free from the constraints of language, and harnessing the unique qualities of a single moment frozen in time."**

Steve McCurry

Steve's work has been featured in every major magazine in the world and frequently appears in National Geographic magazine with recent articles on Tibet, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, and the temples of Angkor Wat, Cambodia.

McCurry is driven by an innate curiosity and sense of wonder about the world and everyone in it.

Telling stories can have a heavy price. But Steve is always ready to take that chance and has experienced them close-up many times. He sneaked across the Pakistan border in 1979 to cover the conflict in rebel-controlled Afghanistan and has since then been shot at, robbed, mortared, beaten up, arrested, nearly drowned and had other close encounters during assignments around the world.

Steve, in the finest documentary tradition, captures the essence of human struggle and joy. Steve's work has been featured in every major magazine in the world and frequently appears in National Geographic Magazine with recent articles on Tibet, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, and the temples of Angkor Wat, Cambodia. McCurry is driven by an innate curiosity and sense of wonder about the world and everyone in it. He has an uncanny ability to cross boundaries of language and culture to capture stories of human experience.

PHOTO BY STEVE MCCURRY































PHOTO BY STEVE MCCURRY



# Itinerary

## DAY 1

### ■ MANDALAY, MYANMAR

Upon arrival you will be picked up at Mandalay airport and transferred to our hotel. After dinner there will be an introduction to the workshop with Steve McCurry presenting his magnificent work. This will be followed by a session on how to capture great portraits and how to approach people along the way.

## DAY 2

### ■ MANDALAY

Set off on an all-day cruise on the Irrawaddy River, stopping first in Sagaing, where myriad pagodas gleam white and gold on the hillside. Take in the view from the Soon U Ponya Shin Pagoda, and observe daily life at a convent and a community school. Continue up river to Inwa and hop onto horse carts to visit Nan Myint Tower, Menu Ok-kyaung Monastery and the teak Bagaya Monastery. Enjoy lunch on board as we sail to Mingun, home to a massive, unfinished pagoda. Watch the sunset over the river on our return to Mandalay. After dinner there will be private image reviews by Steve.

## DAY 3

### ■ MANDALAY

Rise early to witness the morning face-washing ceremony of the Mahamuni Buddha, the most revered Buddha image in Mandalay. Admire the carvings of the Shwenandaw Monastery and see the 729 chiseled marble slabs of Kuthodaw Pagoda. Explore the city wall and its moat and then stop in at a gold-leaf workshop.

## DAY 4

### ■ MANDALAY

Morning workshop: We will work on our images and Steve will offer constructive feedback of your best shots. We will visit the beautiful U Bein's Bridge, a 1.2 km long walkway across the Taungthaman Lake built in teak more than 200 years ago. The bridge is used daily by many monks and locals, and is one of the most photographed sights in Burma. After dinner, Steve will present his most iconic and award-winning pictures.

## DAY 5

### ■ MANDALAY

Street photography. The program for the day is quite flexible. Steve will assist, guide and teach you how to approach people and locations, and there will be great opportunities to practice portrait and reportage photography in some of world's most stunning locations. After dinner Steve will present his most iconic and award-winning pictures.

## DAY 6

### ■ HEHO / INLE LAKE

Fly to Heho and travel overland to Inle Lake, visiting Shweyanpyay Monastery and Nyaungshwe village along the way. Enjoy an afternoon on the lake, stopping at floating villages and pagodas on shore, and gliding past fishermen poling their skiffs with one leg.

## DAY 7

### ■ HEHO / INLE LAKE

Spend the day exploring the lake, from lush floating gardens to vibrant lakeside markets. At the Phaung Daw U Pagoda, see five Buddha images so smothered in gold leaf that they have lost all trace of their original forms. Take a Shan cooking class or watch artisans at work at a silk weaving workshop. After lunch in a floating house, wander among hundreds of Shan-style stupas in Inn Dein, and visit Ngaphechaung Monastery, perched over the water on stilts and teak planks.

## DAY 8

### ■ HEHO / INLE LAKE

We will enjoy the beauty of the hazy blue Shan plateau and the hilly region. We will also visit the Pindaya Cave houses, see 8,094 Buddha images, visit an umbrella workshop made of pulp. Later in the day we proceed to Inle and visit Shweyanpye Monastery, a typical Shan Monastery made of wood, which is about 500 years old, and its 700-year-old pagoda. We will see the small Buddha images in niches painted traditionally by Shan people. Farewell dinner and a thorough review of some of your best workshop photos led by Steve.

## DAY 9

### ■ HEHO / INLE LAKE

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

PRICE & BOOKING







PHOTO BY STEVE MCCURRY

















# Quick guide

We wish you to travel with the greatest possible comfort and to know that you have received as much information as possible.

## ■ GETTING THERE

All international flights arrive at Mandalay airport. The most common route to Mandalay airport is via Bangkok.

## ■ VISA

All visitors are required to have a passport valid for at least six months beyond the intended stay, and all visitors will need a visa. The visa application process is handled by the Embassy of the Union of Myanmar, and can be done in person, by representative or by post. It takes 5-10 working days to get the tourist visa application processed.

## ■ WEATHER

The southwest monsoon starts around the end of May, bringing frequent rain until October, peaking from July to September. March to May brings intense heat. At this time, the daily temperatures in Yangon often reach 40°C, while areas around Bagan and Mandalay go a few degrees higher.

## ■ LANGUAGE

Burmese is the official language of Burma, and the primary language of instruction. English is the secondary language taught.

## ■ CURRENCY

The Burmese monetary unit is the Kyat (K).

## ■ QUICK GUIDE

One of the most fascinating aspects of travel in Burma is the opportunity to experience a corner of Asia that, in many ways, has changed little since British colonial times. Being cut off from the rest of the world for so many decades, Myanmar has achieved a unique preservation of culture bounded by a rich, unspoiled landscape. Abundant in natural resources, the landscape of Myanmar ranks among the most breathtaking sights anywhere in the world.

It's also a country of many incredible and sometimes surreal sites. Contemplate the 4,000 sacred stupas scattered across the plains of Bagan. Stare in disbelief at the Golden Rock teetering impossibly on the edge of a chasm. Ride a horse cart past colonial-era mansions.

Meet multi-talented monks who have taught their cats to jump, or feisty elderly Chin women, their faces tattooed with intricate designs.

PRICE & BOOKING













# Equipment

Whether this is your first trip or your "hundredth" workshop with us, it's always helpful to have a rundown of what items you may want to pack so you have a travel checklist. Bookmark this packing list, because you'll want to refer back to it to make sure you've thought of everything you might want to pack.

## ■ CAMERA

The camera list is for inspiration, since you know better than anyone what equipment you prefer.

- ☐ Bring your own laptop computer and storage medium
- ☐ Camera body(ies)
- ☐ Tripod
- ☐ Lenses, If you are working with a 24x36mm camera system, lenses from 12mm to approx. 55mm is obvious. And a "long lens" such as a 180mm. If you are working with a medium format camera, lenses from 28mm to approx. 80mm is obvious. And a "long lens" such as a 300 mm.
- ☐ Bag for all camera gear
- ☐ Light bag for easy hiking with camera bodies and accessories
- ☐ Cleaning kit for cameras and lenses
- ☐ Rain/dust covers for cameras and lenses
- ☐ Charger for batteries
- ☐ Spare batteries
- ☐ Standard power converter
- ☐ Raw processing software
- ☐ Memory cards and card wallets
- ☐ Memory card reader
- ☐ USB key to exchange images

## ■ NICE TO HAVE

- ☐ Lens extenders
- ☐ Camera straps for ease of changing from one camera to another
- ☐ Graduated filter set
- ☐ Filter holder
- ☐ High quality polarizing filter
- ☐ Lens belt









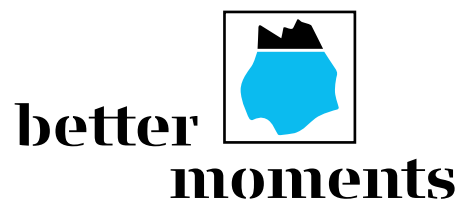






PHOTO BY STEVE MCCURRY





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