



PERMISSION AND PAYMENT: A GUIDE TO TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS OF LOCAL PEOPLE AT DESTINATIONS

Taking photographs is an integral part of any holiday. Whether it's an awe-inspiring landscape, a beautiful sunrise or sunset, or inspirational architecture, photography lets us capture our experiences and hold on to them for future memories. Local cultures and local people also play a central role in the experiences we have when travelling. However, for many of us, knowing when, where and who to photograph can become very confusing.

Drawing upon the first-hand experiences of and conversations with locals being photographed in Peru, this leaflet aims to offer a little guidance that will not only help you capture the photographs you would like but, may also offer moments of connection with locals that may otherwise remain beyond reach.



ASKING PERMISSION

For many of us, asking permission becomes a murky area. When we are in public spaces taking pictures of street or market scenes, it becomes impossible to ask for everyone's permission, so when do we ask permission and how do we do it?

- As a general rule, if you identify an individual or photograph 'close-up', it is courteous to ask permission
- Remember, it is not always legal to photograph in public. Always ask your tour leader if you are in doubt
- No local language = no excuse! Use sign language. Gesture with your camera and smile. A firm shake or nod of the head in response will quickly let you know if it is OK to photograph
- Request that your tour leader asks on your behalf. They are sure to speak the local language and can act as an interpreter
- Some locals like to see their photograph once they've been taken. Remember, this can be a great way to interact so, make the most of going digital!

GOLDEN RULES OF PHOTOGRAPHING

- **Always ask permission** where possible and appropriate
- If in doubt, **ask your tour leader** for advice as they will have specialised local knowledge on culture and attitudes
- **Take a moment!** Don't just photograph and move on, many locals are keen to spend time with you. You can learn a lot about local culture and lifestyles in a short two-minute conversation. Remember, you can use your tour leader as an interpreter
- If tipping, **always use local currency or dollar bills.** If in doubt, ask advice
- **Always be respectful!**



PAYING FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

Payment is often a tricky subject. Some of us are willing to pay, others feel it inappropriate, while many remain unsure if locals in traditional costumes are "only doing it for the tourists". The decision to photograph locals who 'pose' is very personal, but when making your decision consider the following:

- Paying for photograph in organised tourist sites is often regulated and permissible
- Always determine if payment is expected and if so, how much?
- Think outside the box! In many cases, people such as those pictured rely upon being photographed for income, food, access to education, health care etc. A sol, rupee or peso can go a long way
- It is not all about us! The Western view is not always right. Just because we do not like having our picture taken does not mean locals feel the same! Ask!
- For some, being photographed in traditional dress **reignites** pride and passion in culture. Being photographed can help in sharing culture.