





JEROEN SWOLFS
10-08-1974 DEN HAAG NEDERLAND

STREETS OF
THE WORLD

BY JEROEN SWOLFS

TERRA

INTRODUCTION

This is not just another photography book. It is a message to all those who want to discover what a street means to society: education, wisdom, youth, experience, happiness, stories, food and so much more.

You will not find aesthetics competing with constructions to impress the public. This is raw material, directly from the guts of a global traveller focusing on the essential streets. The street represents the culture, colours, rituals, and perhaps even the history of the city and country where he found them.

The street is a meeting place, a platform for crowds, a centre for news and gossip, the workplace of salesmen and prostitutes, the playground of their children and the ultimate enemy of solitude and anonymity.

Imagine going to nearly two hundred countries searching for that one street (or sometimes harbour or railway station) that symbolizes a whole community. Streets after a war, a flood, a drought. Streets where poverty and wealth mingle, where modernity pushes into tradition, kids conquer their space and the elderly enjoy a stroll.

Imagine how difficult it must be to choose among all the possibilities. Why this avenue and not that alley? It takes an enormous amount of patience and stamina, not exactly the talents which characterize Jeroen Swolfs, who is more a hunter and a runner than a philosopher or poet. You don't have to agree with Swolf's choices, but you won't be able to deny the emotion he wants to transmit through his pictures. The repetition of the chosen angle forces us to stay close to him and to share his soul.

Jeroen Swolfs is in his early forties, a Dutch photographer who believes in a positive



approach to mankind. He is not naïve nor is he provincial. But because he is a fanatic city dweller, he dares to ask questions about the characteristics of the street next to him, or those in all the 196 cities he has visited, with just one purpose: what can I learn from the things I see and the people I meet?

In a world where crisis and uncertainty seem to dominate, Swolfs wants to show us an exit. He believes in the power of life in the streets, where people connect, shake hands and make peace. Where deals are made and food is prepared, where business and the playground mix. The street is the artery of the city and of life itself.

His dream is to bring homebound computer addicts back to the real life beyond. He invites us to become curious, ask questions and wonder how our neighbors are doing. In an age of narcissism; of me, I, and my selfie, Swolfs pulls us out of our microcosm into the lively, roaring streets. If you follow

him, you will discover surprises which you thought had disappeared. There is so much to discover in the street you walk through every day if only you start looking!

The street may be adventure, emotion, tension, pressure and leisure. It is food, drink and the market. The street is what connects people. It is their last hope for new beginnings and the mother of intimacy. Without streets we would be lost, haunting the world without direction and without points of reference. Without streets there would be no communication, no organisation and no structure.

In other words: the street is everything. The street is us, is me, is you.

Thinking of streets I wonder why I always took them for granted. They are actually one of man's greatest inventions.

Mark Blaisse

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Streets of the World is about my trip around the world, working on the 'Streets of the World' project. Its compilation is based on that trip and therefore it is not an encyclopaedia or travel guide. It is a personal account of the way I perceive the world and the choices I have made creating the project. The photos I took are not about countries or capitals, but about connecting humanity. I want to share several basic themes which I found all over the world, such as friendship, love, work, family, and laughter, but also hope, perseverance, resilience and brotherhood.

This book is based on six continents, but we divided Asia into two parts to maintain equal chapters. I added Australia to Oceania. Each of the continents has its own colour and calligraphy. At the time of printing three countries remain that I still want to add to the project: Yemen, Libya and Equatorial Guinea. For various reasons I couldn't include them now, but they will eventually also become part of 'Streets of the World'.

For one reason or other, which I will explain in the text, some of the photos in this book were not taken in the official capitals. The texts that accompany the pictures are my personal opinions and observations about these places. I do realise they can differ greatly from other opinions and views, but this is what I encountered and wished to share.

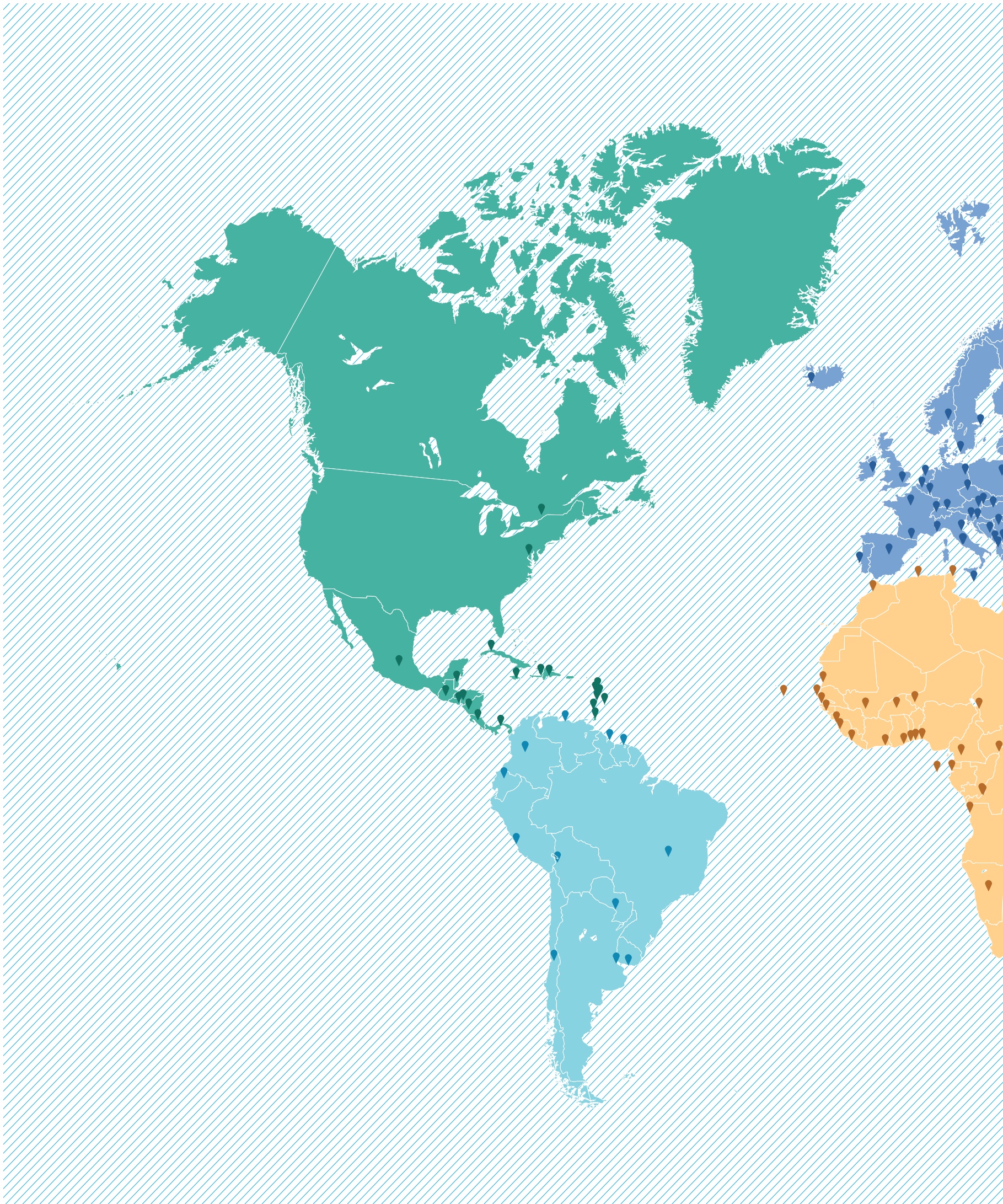
Please feel free to react at:
connect@streetsoftheworld.com

About the technique

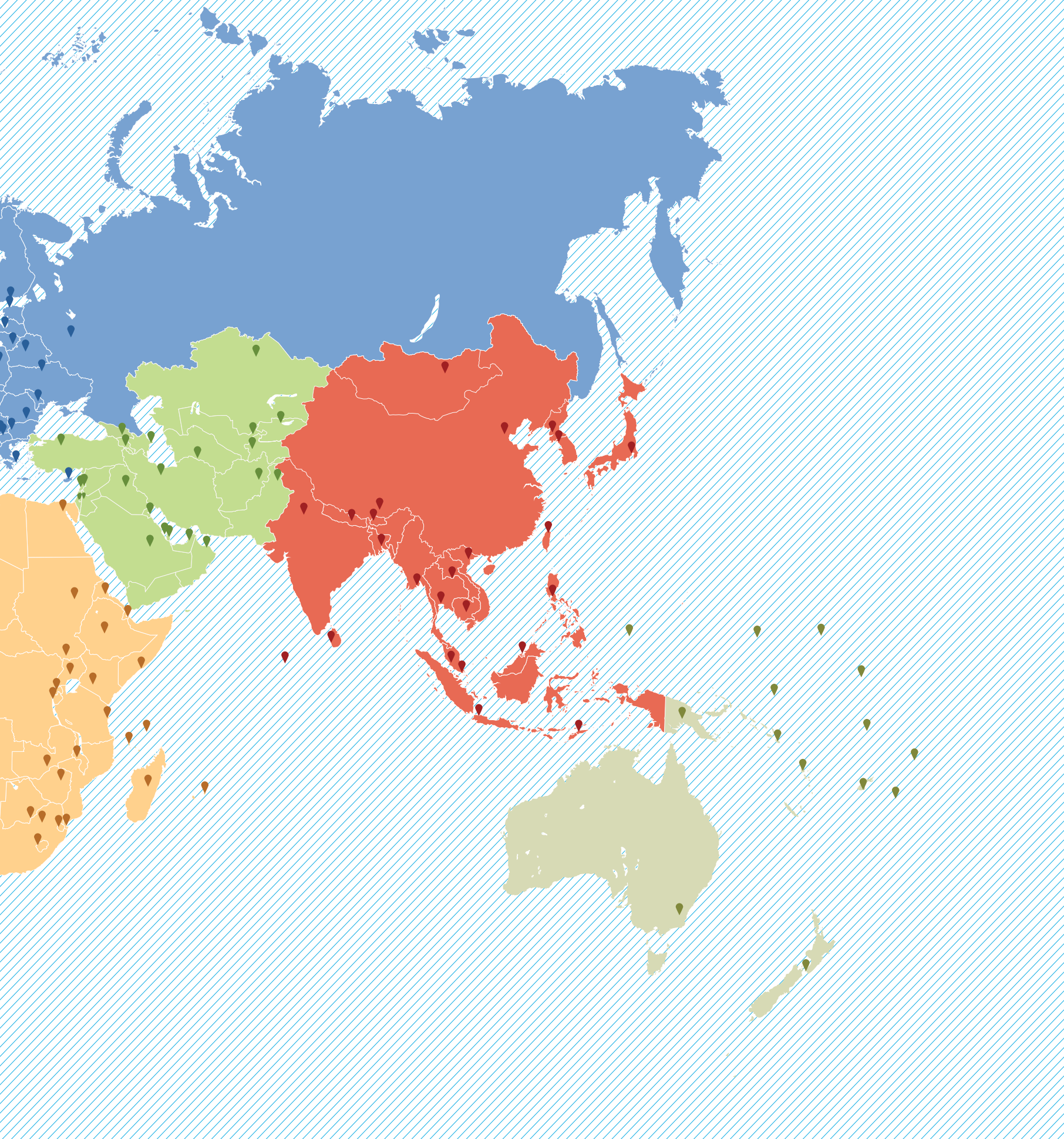
When I started 'Streets of the World' in 2006, in Chisinau, Moldova, I had already decided on the technique that I wanted to use throughout the project. Because Streets of the World is about unity and the connection between people around world, I wanted to use a technique which conveyed that feeling of unity. So, I chose to always use the same angle, 16 mm, and the same point of view, standing in the street looking straight ahead with a straight horizon, and to always use an aperture value between 8 and 13, depending on the light, to achieve a high depth of field in all photos. I tried to maintain the same ISO as much as I could, around 200. This approach reappears in the Streets of the World logo, which has the horizon in the middle as do the photos, but also symbolises a street.

About the infographics

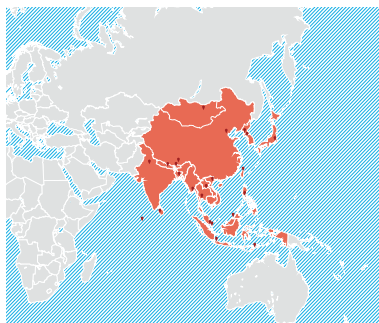
The infographics in this book have been selected based on fact and trivia, but may and will become outdated because of constantly changing situations in the world. I thought it would be nice to mix general information with fun facts about the countries to enhance the travel and educational experience of the book. The infographics are divided into several categories: Geography, Capital, Literacy rate, Religion, Languages, Street Food and Facts.



CONTINENTS VISITED

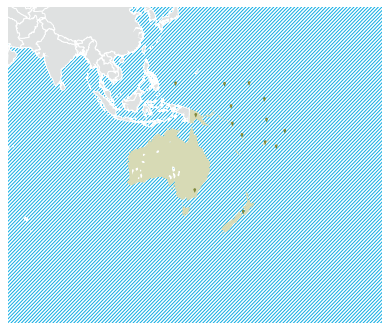


CONTINENTS / CHAPTERS



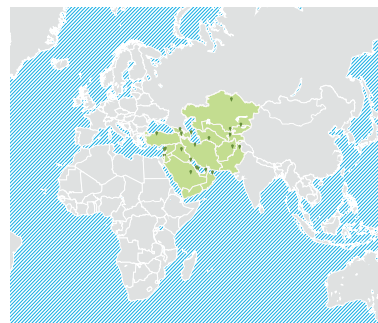
EASTERN ASIA

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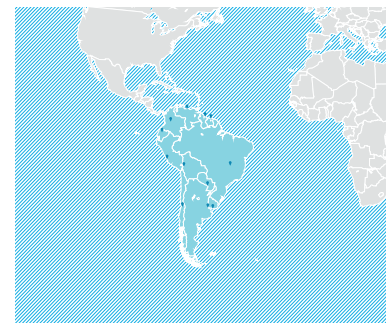
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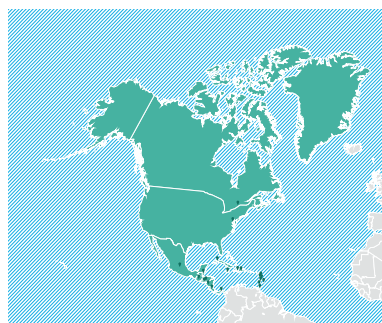
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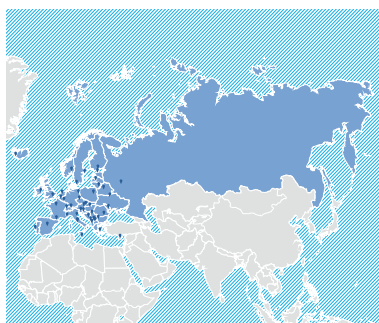
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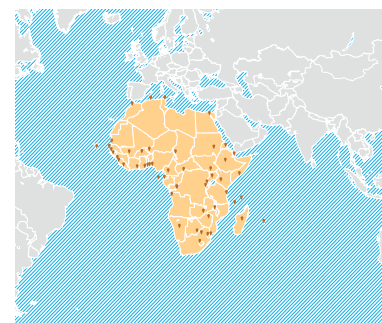
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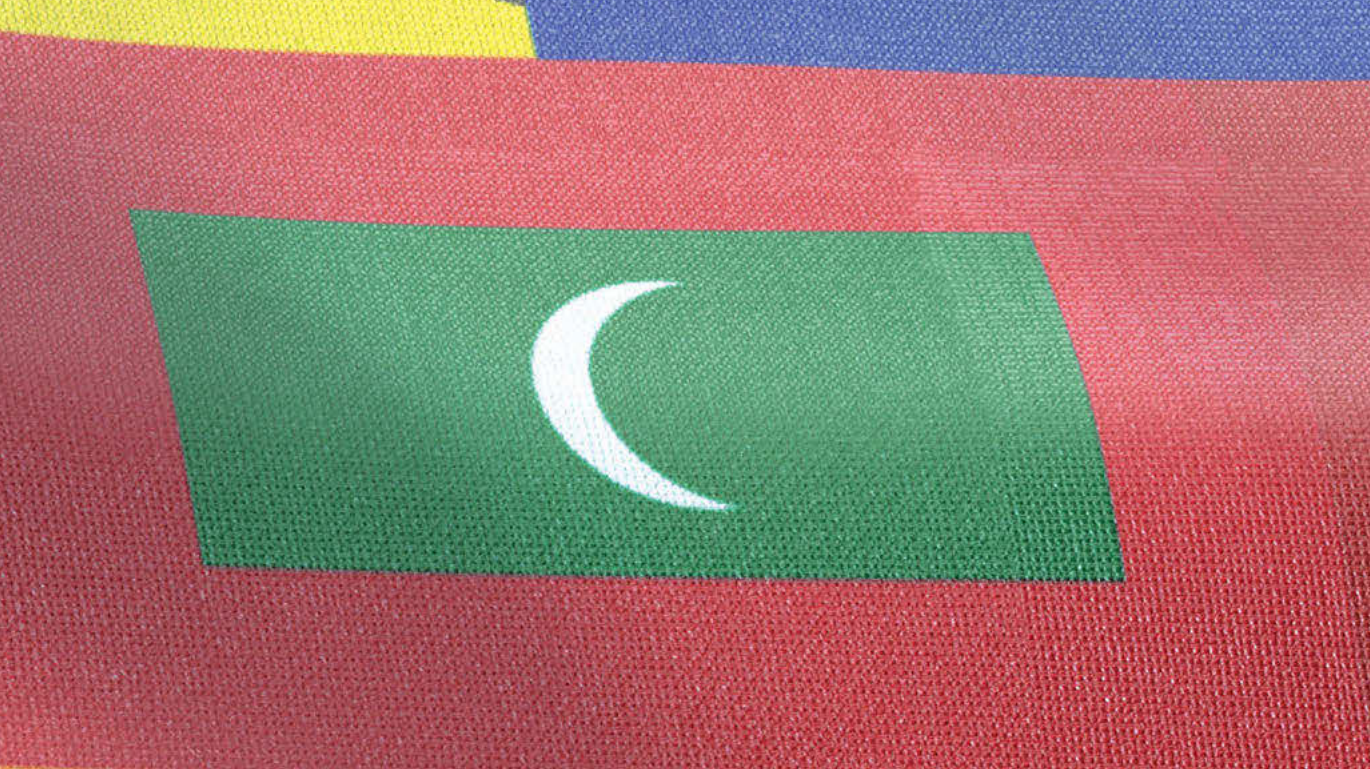
EUROPE

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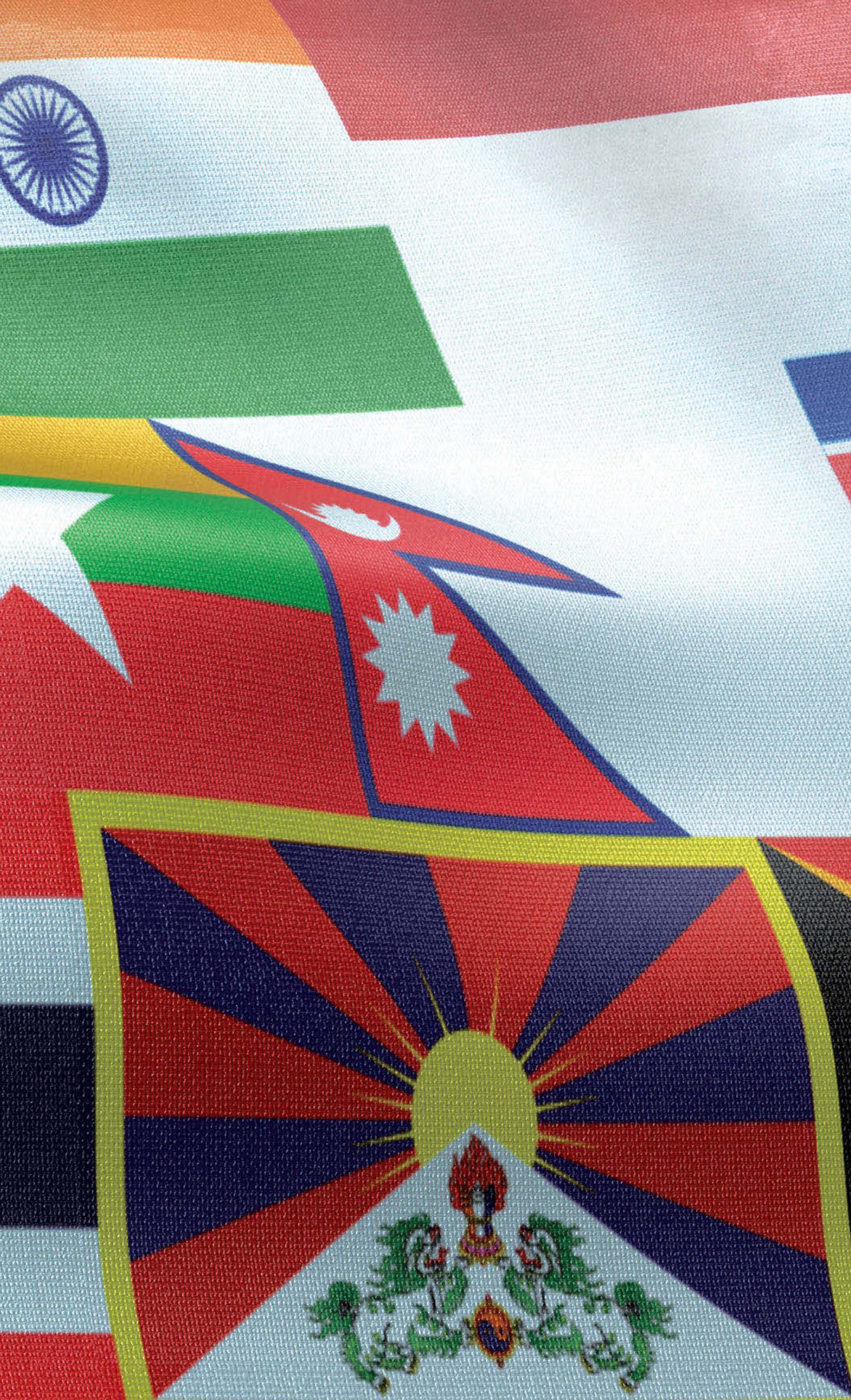
AFRICA

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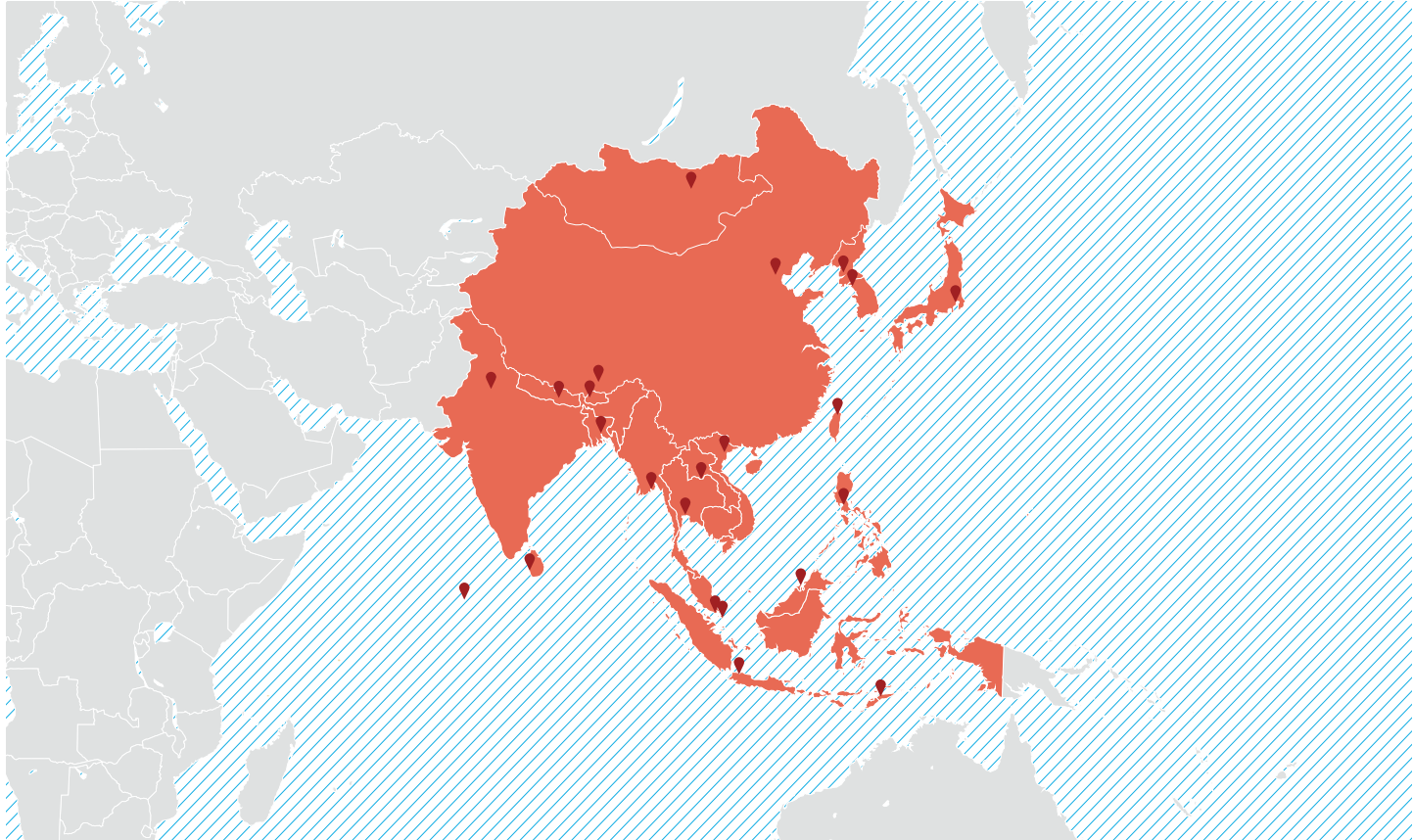




*Eastern
Asia*



THE STREETS OF EASTERN ASIA



BANGLADESH // DHAKA // 23°48'N- 90°24'E

BHUTAN // THIMPHU // 27°28'N-89°38'E

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM // BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN //
4°54'N-114°56'E

CAMBODIA // PHNOM PENH // 11°32'N-104°53'E

CHINA // BEIJING // 39°54'N-116°24'E

INDIA // NEW DELHI // 28°36'N-77°12'E

INDONESIA // JAKARTA // 6°12'S-106°50'E

JAPAN // TOKYO // 35°41'N-139°41'E

LAOS // VIENTIANE // 17°58'N-102°37'E

MALAYSIA // KUALA LUMPUR // 3°8'N-101°41'E

MALDIVES // MALE // 4°10'N-73°30'E

MONGOLIA // ULAANBAATAR // 47°53'N-106°54'E

MYANMAR // YANGON // 16°51'N-96°11'E

NEPAL // KATHMANDU // 27°43'N-85°19'E

NORTH KOREA // PYONGYANG // 39°2'N-125°45'E

PHILIPPINES // MANILA // 14°35'N-120°59'E

SINGAPORE // SINGAPORE // 1°21'N-103°52'E

SOUTH KOREA // SEOUL // 37°33'N-126°58'E

SRI LANKA // COLOMBO // 6°55'N-79°51'E

TAIWAN // TAIPEI // 25°1'N-121°33'E

THAILAND // BANGKOK // 13°45'N-100°30'E

TIBET // LHASA // 29°39'N-91°10'E

EAST TIMOR // DILI // 8°33'S-125°33'E

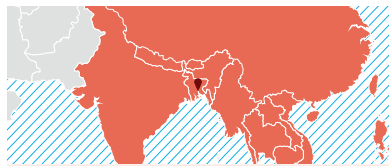
VIETNAM // HANOI // 21°1'N-105°50'E



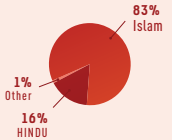



WHY?

Badly designed container homes where too many people are squeezed in. Their main diversion is soccer. The flags of Argentina and Brazil hang outside during the World Cup. So many were watching the matches on TV that power stations broke down. Talk about real fans!

WHAT?

Unfortunately, the two (half) naked children are forced to beg at a very young age. Sadly, not many people seem to care. These things are difficult to see and to photograph, but a reality too. Still, the city is on the move and bursting with energy, literally and mentally, working towards a better future.



CAPITAL	LITERACY RATE
 Dhaka	 61.5%
RELIGION	LANGUAGES
 83% Islam 16% HINDU 1% Other	 Bengali (83%), English (16%)
STREET FOOD	ETHNICITY
 Vuna Khichuri: a dish of rice, split lentils and spiced chicken or beef, is a popular street food in 'The Rickshaw Capital of the World'	 5% Other 95% Bengali

Bangladeshis are mad about cricket. Dhaka is home to the national stadium and many of the country's top stars. Cricket is played everywhere: alleyways, parks, roads and even rooftops.









BHUTAN // THIMPHU //
27°28'N-89°38'E

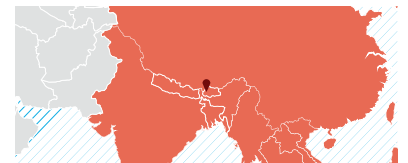
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WHY?

Mountains wherever you look, for those in search of total isolation. The king is the absolute chief in this mountain nation, where only a limited number of tourists may visit. But those who do influence the new generations to become a little more modern, in this sober but beautiful Buddhist society.

WHAT?

The only country with a Ministry of Happiness. But who decides what the definition of being happy is? These senior Bhutanese are not yet ready to connect with the youngsters in their trendy clothes. But the youngsters seem to be ready for a new age that's more connected to the 'outside world'.



CAPITAL	LITERACY RATE
 Thimphu	 69.5%
RELIGION	LANGUAGES
 75% Lamaistic Buddhist 25% Hindu	 Bhutanese (Dzongkha), Tshanglakha, Khenkha, Lhotsamkha
STREET FOOD	FACTS
 Ema Datshi: a stew of green, yellow or red chilies, yak's milk cheese, onions and tomatoes, served with red rice, is Thimphu's most popular street dish	 Bhutan was the last country in the world to legalize television broadcasting (1999)

Thimphu is the only capital in the world where traffic lights are non-existent. A single set had been installed previously, but the residents protested against it so much that not long after, the lights were taken down and the good old traffic police officer was back.