

Inside the Misteri

Exclusive Documentary Photography in Trapani, Sicily

March 23-27 2027

Go beyond the crowds to photograph one of Europe's oldest Easter traditions through privileged access earned over more than a decade of trust, friendship, and local relationships.



Limited to just five photographers

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More Than a Procession

For more than twelve years I have returned to Trapani to photograph one of Europe's oldest and most extraordinary continuous Easter traditions.

What began as a personal photographic project has become a long-term documentary study of a tradition that has shaped the identity of Trapani for centuries

This is not simply about finding a good viewpoint. It is about understanding the people, traditions and moments that make the Misteri one of Europe's most extraordinary documentary experiences.



The photographs in this brochure are possible because of something that cannot be bought with a ticket: years of trust, friendship and privileged access.

Access Earned Over Twelve Years

For more than a decade I have returned to Trapani, not simply to photograph the Misteri, but to become part of the community that keeps this extraordinary tradition alive.

Over the years I have built trusted relationships with the Union that organises the procession, the people who carry the sacred sculptures, and those working quietly behind the scenes. That trust now allows me to offer photographers access that is simply unavailable to most visitors.

As part of this small group you will photograph moments that few people ever witness, from the preparations inside the church before the procession begins to the emotional return of the sculptures almost twenty-four hours later.

Because our group is limited to just five photographers, we can respond quickly as photographic opportunities unfold around us.

This is more than privileged access. It is an opportunity to document one of Sicily's most important traditions from the inside, guided by someone who knows the event, the people and the rhythm of the procession.



What Makes This Experience Different

- * **Inside the Church**
Photograph the final preparations before the procession begins.
- * **Privileged Access**
Work from positions unavailable to the general public.
- * **The Inner Route**
Photograph the opening moments from inside the barriers.
- * **Twenty-Four Hours Later**
Witness and photograph the emotional return of the sculptures.
- * **A Small Group**
Limited to five photographers to preserve access and flexibility.



A Week of Documentary Photography

This isn't just about photographing a single procession. Throughout the week we'll explore different aspects of life in western Sicily, building a complete documentary story.

Tuesday

Arrival in Trapani, Welcome Dinner

Meet the group over dinner, discuss the week ahead and introduce the history and traditions of the Misteri.

Wednesday

Madonna del Popolo

Our first opportunity to photograph a traditional Sicilian religious procession. A chance to understand the pace, atmosphere and rhythm of Holy Week before the main event begins.

Thursday

Fish Market & Marsala

An early morning visit to Trapani's historic fish market, followed by travel to nearby Marsala to photograph the Holy Thursday procession. This provides a fascinating contrast to the Misteri and another opportunity to develop your documentary storytelling.

Friday & Saturday

The Misteri

From the opening moments inside the church to the final return of the sculptures almost twenty-four hours later, we'll document one of Europe's most extraordinary Easter traditions.

The Photographs You'll Make

Over five days you'll build a complete documentary story, photographing far more than the procession itself. From intimate portraits and quiet traditions to dramatic processions and fleeting details, you'll leave with a rich body of work that captures the spirit of Holy Week in Trapani.



Photographing With Intention

This workshop is about far more than visiting remarkable places. It's about learning to see them differently. Throughout the week I'll be working alongside you, sharing the techniques, observations and thought processes that have shaped my own documentary photography over four decades.

We'll explore how to anticipate moments before they happen, recognise meaningful layers within a scene, work with changing light, and build stronger compositions that tell a story rather than simply record an event.

Whether you're looking to refine your eye for observation or develop greater confidence photographing people, the emphasis is always on creating authentic, honest images with purpose.

During the workshop we'll explore:

- Reading a scene before raising the camera
- Building layered documentary compositions
- Photographing people naturally and respectfully
- Using light, shadow to strengthen a photograph
- Working confidently in busy environments
- Personal guidance and constructive critique throughout the week



Your Stay in Trapani

Throughout the workshop we'll be based at the 4-star Hotel Azzoli, a beautifully restored boutique hotel just 150 metres from Trapani's historic centre.

Its central location means the streets, churches, harbour and procession routes are all within easy walking distance, allowing us to make the most of every photographic opportunity throughout the week.

Each morning begins with breakfast before we head out together, returning whenever the rhythm of the festival allows. Between sessions you'll have time to rest, download images or simply enjoy the atmosphere of this remarkable Sicilian town.

Your stay includes

- ☒ Four nights' accommodation
- ☒ Bed & Breakfast
- ☒ 4-star boutique hotel
- ☒ Just 150 metres from Trapani's historic centre
- ☒ Walking distance to the main photographic locations
- ☒ Local transport within Trapani where required



Investment

Misteri di Trapani Photography Workshop

23 - 27 March 2027

£2,750 per person

Included

- ☒ Four nights' accommodation (Bed & Breakfast)
- ☒ Tuition throughout the workshop
- ☒ Exclusive photographic access during the Misteri procession, including locations not available to the general public.
- ☒ Official press accreditation
- ☒ Access to restricted photographic locations
- ☒ Local transport within Trapani
- ☒ Thursday photographic visit to Marsala
- ☒ Post-workshop Zoom image review

Not included

- Flights to Sicily
- Airport transfers
- Lunches and evening meals
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses

Booking

To reserve your place, please get in touch to discuss the workshop or ask any questions.

A £750 deposit per person secures your place.

The remaining balance is payable 10 weeks before the workshop.

Deposits are non-refundable, unless your place can be filled by another participant, in which case your deposit will be refunded in full.

Places are strictly limited to four photographers.

Find Out More

If you'd like to see more photographs and read the story behind the Misteri di Trapani, visit:

<https://www.markseymourphotography.co.uk/journal/inside-the-misteri-di-trapani/>