

MCA COLLECTION

# TRADITIONAL AROUND THE WORLD

A visual journey through living heritage,  
traditional skills, communities, foodways,  
ceremonies and everyday life.

328

FILMS

8

TOPICS

WORLD  
SCOPE

[EXPLORE THE COLLECTION →](#)

[theworldarchitecture.com/traditional-around-the-world](https://theworldarchitecture.com/traditional-around-the-world)



# Living Heritage in Motion

A worldwide film archive documenting how knowledge, identity and daily life are carried from generation to generation.



**The collection brings together traditional work, markets, tribes, agriculture, houses, folklore, religious ceremonies and fishing.**

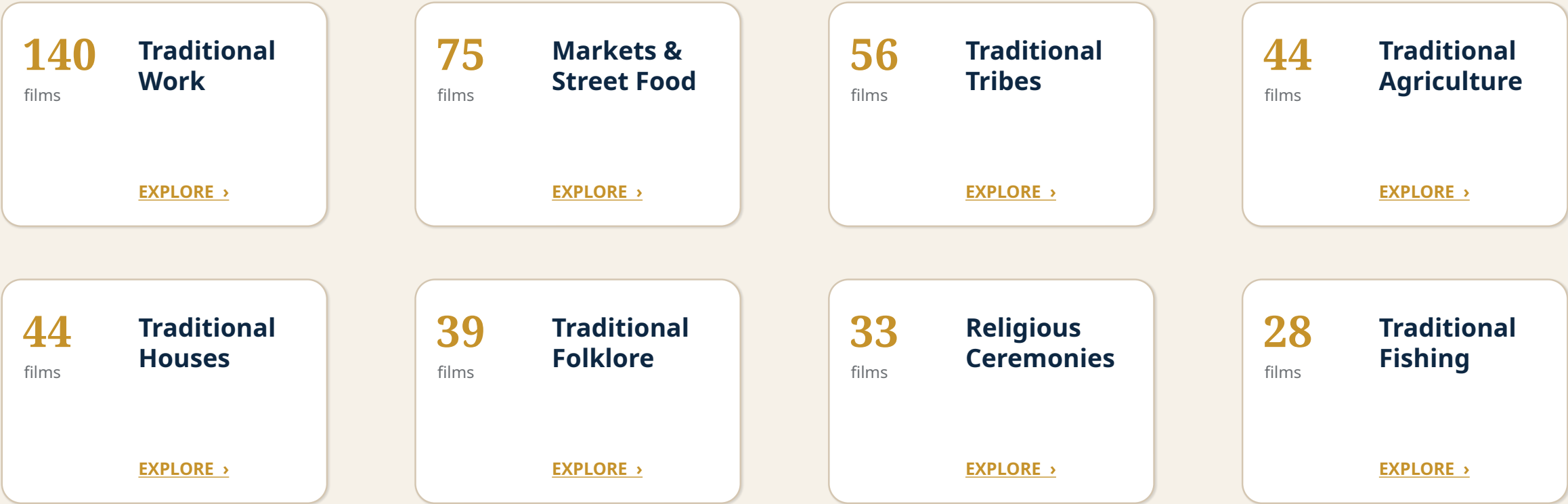
Featured material spans places such as Guatemala, Mexico, China, Kyrgyzstan, Tanzania, Peru, Vietnam, Myanmar, India, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Armenia, Norway, Latvia, Italy and more.

*The result is not a single travel story, but a comparative record of living traditions across continents.*

[OPEN THE LIVE COLLECTION](#)

# Eight Gateways Into Traditional Life

The collection is organized into eight thematic entry points. Topic counts overlap where films relate to more than one subject.



**328 FILMS · 8 TOPICS · WORLDWIDE  
COVERAGE**

# Traditional Work

140 films documenting the skills, tools and handcraft traditions that shape everyday material culture.



## SKILLS PASSED HAND TO HAND

- Weaving & textiles
- Pottery & ceramics
- Wood carving & sculpture
- Glassmaking & metalwork
- Umbrella, basket & rope making
- Blacksmithing and village crafts

[EXPLORE 140 FILMS](#)

# Markets & Street Food

75 films capturing the pulse of daily exchange — food, produce, flowers, crafts, floating markets and local street kitchens.

## CULTURE AT STREET LEVEL

Markets reveal what people grow, cook, trade, celebrate and carry into daily life.

### Examples include:

- Thailand floating markets
- Indian flower markets
- Vietnamese street food
- Guatemalan & Mexican markets
- Fish markets from Africa to Asia

[EXPLORE 75 FILMS](#)



# Traditional Tribes & Communities

56 films focused on community identity, dress, ritual, livelihood and cultural continuity.



## A human-scale archive

The collection records communities in their own landscapes — from East Africa and the Andes to Central Asia and Southeast Asia.

### Featured examples on the site include:

- Maasai and Hadzabe communities in Tanzania
- Cocama (Kukama) communities in Peru
- Hmong, PaO, Kayan and other groups in Southeast Asia
- Uyghur traditions in western China
- Golden-eagle hunting in Kyrgyzstan

[EXPLORE 56 FILMS](#)

# Land & Water: Agriculture and Fishing

Traditional knowledge is often inseparable from landscape — fields, rivers, lakes, coasts and seasonal cycles.



**44**  
**FILMS**

Traditional  
Agriculture

Rice cultivation · Irrigation · coconuts · tea picking · field plowing · nets · stilt  
fishing · cormorant fishing · Chinese fishing nets

**28**  
**FILMS**

Traditional  
Fishing

# Traditional Houses

44 films exploring vernacular architecture as a record of climate, materials, family life and local building knowledge.



## ARCHITECTURE OF DAILY LIFE

Traditional dwellings preserve solutions shaped by local materials, climate, economy and social structure.

Examples on the site include historic houses, barns, granaries, farmhouses, chapels, workshops and fisherman villages — especially in Latvia and Norway.

[EXPLORE 44 FILMS](#)

# Folklore & Religious Ceremonies

Performing memory through dance, music, pilgrimage, procession, prayer and seasonal ritual.

**39** FILMS

## Traditional Folklore

Mexico · India · Cambodia ·  
Tanzania · Armenia · Peru · Sri  
Lanka · Vietnam · Myanmar

**33** FILMS

## Religious Ceremonies

Sikh ceremonies · Ganga Aarti ·  
Easter processions · Buddhist  
prayer · pilgrimage traditions



# From Short Observations to Long-Form Themes

Alongside individual clips, the collection includes longer thematic films that bring many places together around a shared practice.

|                      |                        |         |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------|
| Traditional Works    | <div><div></div></div> | 2:02:24 |
| Folklore             | <div><div></div></div> | 1:25:50 |
| Religious Ceremonies | <div><div></div></div> | 1:18:05 |
| Making Food          | <div><div></div></div> | 0:56:02 |
| Markets              | <div><div></div></div> | 0:43:15 |
| Agriculture          | <div><div></div></div> | 0:20:32 |
| Using Coconuts       | <div><div></div></div> | 0:17:18 |
| Weaving              | <div><div></div></div> | 0:15:03 |
| Making Pottery       | <div><div></div></div> | 0:14:09 |
| Fishing              | <div><div></div></div> | 0:12:50 |

## THE POWER OF COMPARISON

A single theme — weaving, food, markets, fishing or ritual — can be compared across countries, climates and cultures.

This makes the archive especially useful for teaching, anthropology, cultural studies and visual research.

# A World Classroom for Culture & Heritage

The collection can support teaching, research, museums and libraries by putting visual evidence of everyday traditions side by side.



**TEACHING** Enrich courses in anthropology, cultural heritage, history, geography, architecture and tourism.

**RESEARCH** Compare material culture, craft processes, settlements, ritual and livelihood across regions.

**LIBRARIES** Provide a visual multidisciplinary resource with short and long-form films.

**MUSEUMS** Support exhibitions, interpretation, lectures and cultural-context programming.

TRADITIONAL AROUND THE WORLD

# Explore Living Heritage Across the Globe

328 films organized into eight themes — from work and markets to communities, houses, folklore, ceremony, agriculture and fishing.

[VISIT THE COLLECTION →](#)

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MCA Collection · Samuel Magal

