CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

DORSET LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Saturday 21st / Sunday 22nd September 2019

WORKSHOP PREPARATION

- **Please ensure that you read this paper thoroughly before the workshop. It contains information and advice which will be help you get the most from the day**
- **Please try to understand as much as you can about your camera beforehand, and if you can, bring your manual along to check anything that you or I may be unsure about**
- **You shouldn't need to take notes: comprehensive course notes are provided in digital form at the end of the workshop. However, you may wish to make a note of key points**

GENERAL INFORMATION

This workshop is designed as a One day or Weekend Workshop at the Jurassic Coast and inland Dorset. It is largely a coastal workshop but also goes inland to include Corfe Castle. The event is planned to give the photographer a range of skills and experience in both the technical and creative aspects of photography and in particular photographing coastal and inland landscapes. Locations are designed to offer experience in camera control, technique and composition, with photographic opportunities and challenges. Key points as follows:

- The locations are 'landscape photography' focussed but if you have other interests the understanding and skills covered are transferrable to other subjects.
- If the weather is good, there will be more emphasis on outdoor learning with limited time in the studio. However in the event of bad weather, the focus will be slightly more on theory, post-processing and indoor learning.
- The locations are designed to offer a range of experience of use of camera control, technique and composition, with photographic opportunities and challenges.

- All locations are easily accessible from car parking areas with little walking involved between locations

WORKSHOP TASKS

While the list of tasks included within this paper give an indication of the basic structure of the teaching you will find that tasks are frequently interchangeable and techniques repeated at different locations.

The 3 key themes that generally run through all or most tasks are:

- Developing your knowledge of your camera, its settings and controls
- Developing your understanding of exposure and natural light control
- Developing a creative eye for composition in landscape photography.

These 3 themes are supplemented by other aspects such as (examples):

- Understanding the RAW format and RAW processing
- Exploring your subject using a creative 'Point of View'
- Controlling focus and depth of field
- Use of specific techniques in landscape photography
- Use of filters and other accessories.

This is intended to ensure that you end the course with plenty of practise at learning techniques and are fully familiar with the use of your full range of camera controls.

The essential requirements for the workshop (instruction will be provided on all of below as required):

- All images will be shot in RAW for post processing
- All images will be shot using manual exposure settings
- We will use a single focus point for focussing (or use manual focus if you wish)
- Post Processing will be in Adobe Photoshop CC. We also have Adobe Lightroom 5 and Adobe Photoshop Elements 12 if you are more familiar with these.

INDICATIVE ITINERARY

Starting from Corfe with a Dawn view over Corfe Castle

The main aim of the workshop is to enable you to take control of your images with your DSLR camera and gain a knowledge of composition in landscape and urban photography

SATURDAY - CORFE CASTLE, SWANAGE AND DURDLE DOOR (6.30am - 8.00pm)

1. Optional Dawn Start - Sunrise over Corfe Castle from 6.30am

2. Introduction and Tutorial Session in Corfe 9.00-10.00 am approx

- Optimising your Camera Settings & controls for landscape & cityscape photography
- Composition in Landscape and Cityscape Photography
- Long Exposure and Night Photography & Creating Panoramics

3 Morning Location 1: Around Corfe Castle (or Kimmeridge Bay if dawn start)

We return to Corfe Castle and eplore views from the surrounding hills and landscapes

3 Morning Location 2 to lunch: Kimmeridge Bay or Swanage (weather dependent)

Experiement with composition and local architecture at Swanage or visit Kimmeridge Bay

4 Afternoon Locations: Jurassic Coast from Lulworth to Durdle Door

We spend the rest of the day at the magnificent coastline between Lulworth and Durdle Door

5 Evening / Night Locations: Durdle Door & Man O'War Beach

Watch the sun go down at Durdle Door and capture the night sky

6 Review and Post Processing Session (at Lulworth at time to suit light / weather)

The session will review & process a selection of images taken during the day in ACR / LR

SUNDAY - WEST FROM DURDLE DOOR (6.30am - 6.00pm)

1. Optional Dawn Startat Portland Bill Lighthouse from 6.30am

2 Morning Locations: Isle of Portland

We explore the area of Isle of Portland & Portland Harbour

3 Lunch / Afternoon Locations: Flexible with potential revisit to favoured area

I keep the Sunday afternoon flexible to allow us to potentially revisit one or two of the previous locations in atfernoon / evening light,

4 Review and Post Processing Session at nearby Pub / Cafe during day & CLOSE around 6.30pm

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EQUIPMENT

Essential requirements:

- Camera (& lenses if separate from camera)
- Memory Card (s) with room for minimum 1000 images shot in RAW (suggest min 64GB)
- Camera manual
- Card reader & USB stick
- **Full battery** + preferably a spare & battery charger.
- Laptop with installed software if you wish.

Optional (but please bring them if you have them!)

- Tripod
- Remote release
- Filters: e.g. Polarising / Neutral Density / Graduated Neutral Density
- Any other gadgets you have!

I can assist with some of these if required. I would also be happy to offer advice on purchasing any equipment you may be looking for. My course notes, which are provided to you in digital form, also provide comprehensive information on equipment.

Other essential requirements:

- Suitable wet weather walking clothing and walking shoes / boots
- Food and drink for the day (although these can be purchased at locations
- Headtorch / other torch
- Umbrella if rain is forecast
- Emergency contact details (see top of this paper - provided in advance please)

Laptop Computer / IT Equipment

While we have 3 laptops available, if you are familiar with Post – Processing, you may wish to bring your own laptop loaded with your post-processing software. This will allow more time for you to post process your own images.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS / HEALTH & SAFETY NOTES (advisory only – health & safety of yourself and others is your responsibility)

This photography workshop is based at a number of locations in the Jurassic Coast and surrounding area. We are out all day visiting a number of locations of varying distance and difficulty. However we ensure that the course is designed around your capabilities, and if applicable, takes full account of any physical limitations. In all cases we discuss the content of the course with you beforehand based on your answers to the Course Questionnaire.

All locations are accessible from well surfaced paths, however many do involve a one or more ascents or descents to locations. The following in particular should be noted:

- **Views over Corfe Castle**; climbs are short but steep. Total ascent up to 100m above start point with steep incline
- **Durdle Door / Man O'War Bay.** We allow 45 mins for this walk. It has a 1kn long ascent of around 75m which is moderately steep, with a steep descent / ascent to sea level. We may also explore further along the coast, with a total walk time of up to 3 hours.
- **View above Lulworth.** This is a short but steep climb inland overlooking Lulworth Cove

The following general guidelines should also be remembered:

- **Spring tides are high**; tides rise quickly and spring tides are very high. Do not get caught out! We look at capture the coast as the tide drops and will provide guidance on this.
- **We are at coastal landscapes.** Steps can be narrow and steep and paths uneven. Many paths are of loose sand. Take care when walking on paths.
- **The cliffs have steep and sheer drops.** Look around you when using your camera.
- **The area can be busy with other visitors:** you will need to share space with other members of the public. Allow them to pass and show courtesy at all times.
- **Don't forget how distracted you can be when taking photographs;** look around you at all times. There may be a drop or steps behind you.
- **Never keep your camera on a tripod while walking on uneven or slippery ground.** Always remove it from the tripod and pack it away before moving to a new position. This is because if you do slip, your first instinct will be to protect the camera rather than yourself!
- **Do not leave any item of your equipment in a position where it may be a hazard to any other person in the area**; this is of utmost importance in an area such as this with limited access & dangerous hazards.

OUR ENVIRONMENT

'Leave only footprints, take only photographs': A familiar expression but very relevant to a business promoting photography. Our key principles are as follows:

- **We never leave anything behind**: we always take your litter home including biodegradable matter. We do not accept littering in others.
- **We never cause unnecessary erosion** by straying off used footpaths or tracks, particularly on heavily used rights of way. We never climb on walls or exposed foundations of historic monuments and encourage others not to do so.
- **Our photographic subjects stay where they belong**: from objects found in the landscape to tiny wild flowers always stay where they are and never go to the studio
- **We only go where we're allowed to**: we only stray off common land or rights of way with permission. We do not climb over walls or over fences to get to a location. We do not climb on monuments or structures unless on public access routes.

…….AND FINALLY

There's no point in doing anything if you can't have fun doing it! Nigel will make the day as lighthearted and entertaining as possible; you will enjoy the course whatever the conditions! He will also be asking for your feedback at the end of the course for which your comments and suggestions, positive or otherwise, are very much welcomed as it's the only way to ensure continuous improvement!!

CONTACT

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