

Keys Ranch Nightscape Photography Workshop

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, May 4, 6:30 pm – midnight

Meet at: [Oasis Visitor Center](#) (click on the link for a map to the meeting site)

74485 National Park Dr., Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Instructor: Scott Klinger, Nightscape Photographer

Overview

Most photographers put their camera away after sunset but today's digital camera technology makes it easier than ever for photographers to take photographs of the night sky. And the night sky in Joshua Tree is beautiful. With long exposures, the camera will gather light from thousands of stars not visible to the naked eye. When we add light painting techniques of interesting foregrounds, you have an incredible and unique photograph to be proud of.

We will meet at the Rattlesnake Room at the Oasis of Mara Visitor Center for a lecture/discussion on nightscape photography. After the lecture, the class will caravan to Keys Ranch.

At astronomical twilight we will be ready to start our nightscape photography. We will break into four groups of two and each group will be free to wander Keys Ranch and work on subjects of their own interest. Scott will spend time with each group checking settings, composition, light painting, and answering any questions you have.

This class is for photographers of all abilities that are new to night photography and light painting techniques. Photographers must be able to work their camera in full manual mode, in the dark!

Special note about Keys Ranch. We must be respectful of this historic site. Several areas will be off limits for photography and to help insure that invasive species are not introduced clean boots, socks and tripod legs are required. A brief discussion of workshop protocol while at Keys Ranch will be provided before leaving the classroom.

Itinerary

Saturday, May 4, 6:30 pm – midnight

Oasis Visitor Center

- 6:30 pm - meet at the Rattlesnake room at the Oasis of Mara Visitor Center

- 6:30 – 7:45 pm - discussion of night photography and light painting.
- 7:45 - 8:15 pm - carpool to Keys Ranch
- 8:15 – midnight - nightscape photography

What to Bring to the Course

- Digital camera with full manual controls, 30 second exposure capability, 3200 – 6400 ISO capability
 - A wide and fast lens with manual focus ability. An f/2.8 14 – 24 mm full frame equivalent is ideal
 - Sturdy tripod
 - Extra batteries and memory cards
 - Remote shutter release
 - Incandescent flashlight for lightpainting
 - Headlamp or small flashlight for walking (ideally with red light capability)
 - Camera/lens cleaning supplies
 - Your camera manual – you must know your own camera
 - Snacks/drinks
 - Appropriate clothing – extra layers, light gloves, beanie hat...Yes, it will be cold!!!
 - Small pack or camera bag – we won't be walking far, but it's always handy to have a few items with you.
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The 10 Essentials: Every day in the Desert

- Day pack
- 4 quarts of water
- Closed toe hiking shoes
- Snacks
- Clothing layers
- Hat
- Sun glasses
- Sunscreen
- Notebook and pencil/pen
- Whistle

Fitness Requirements

Participants must be in good physical condition for courses/activities in a desert that may be hot, dry, windy, and sometimes **surprisingly cold, especially at night.**

Hike Level

Easy

Guidelines

- You are responsible for your safety.
- Park your car in designated areas only. Parking along the side of the road is dangerous to you and the environment.
- Rattlesnakes are present in the desert. Avoid contact with wildlife. Put your hands and feet only where you can see them.
- Stay with the group. If you get lost, stay put.
- Drink plenty of water. If you run out, notify the instructor or the Desert Institute Representative.
- Watch your step. Some of the class is at night, please bring a flash light and beware of uneven ground and equipment.
- Before leaving the class, check out with the Desert Institute Representative.

Instructor Biography

Scott Klinger is a photographer, filmmaker and educator with over 15 years of experience. Scott's photographs and films have been exhibited throughout the world. Recent screenings include 66th Festival de Cannes and the Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival. Recent exhibitions include LAXART in Los Angeles, Anfiteatro Arte in Milan, and La Generale en Manufacture in Paris. His work is held in the permanent collection of the Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Art. Scott was born in Tucson, AZ and has spent much of his life making photos in and around the American West. He holds degrees from UCLA and UC Irvine. Scott has taught at the University of California, the New York Film Academy, and currently teaches at College of the Desert.

* The Desert Institute staff/instructors will attempt to accommodate participant's needs; however we reserve the right to deny a student participation in the course due to concerns regarding health and safety issues.