

Route 66 Photography Workshop

Information

Date/ Time: Sunday, January 5, 9 am – sunset
Meet at: [BLM Field Office](#)
1303 S. Highway 95, Needles, CA
Instructor: Sandi Wheaton, Tour Guide / Photography Instructor

Overview

Route 66 through the Mojave Desert provides for great photographic images. During this workshop, you will explore Route 66 from Needles to Amboy, capturing storied abandoned sites, iconic vintage landmarks and sweeping desert landscapes. Join photography instructor Sandi Wheaton, who drove and photographed the entire length of Route 66 in 2009. Sandi has been photographing this stretch of Route 66 for years, and will share her knowledge of the many great shooting locations along this historic stretch of highway. This workshop is an opportunity for you to improve your photography and add to your skill set. Sandi will be offering suggestions for taking advantage of each location.

The workshop will begin in Needles and it will end in Amboy with a sunset shoot. The driving distance is approximately 75 miles from Needles to Amboy.

Itinerary

Sunday, January 5, 9 am - sunset

BLM Field Office, Needles, CA

- Introduction to Route 66 history and photo opportunities, followed by hands-on outdoor shooting in Needles
- Caravan to various locations for photography as follows (additional locations nearby may be added at instructor's discretion, or removed based on road closures):
- Goffs, Fenner, Essex, and Amboy
- Lunch break in Goffs, **bring your own food**
- Sunset shoot
- Camera and shooting instruction will take place on the field, as desired by individual participants

What to Bring to the Course

- Camera (digital SLR or mirrorless preferred, not just a “phone camera”)
- Tripod (highly recommended for sunset shoot)
- Lenses (zoom and/or prime lenses that range from wide angle to telephoto)
- Filters (optional)
 - UV (UV filter is important to protect lenses)
 - Polarizer (circular polarizing filter is recommended)
- **Your camera user manual**
- Extra batteries (perhaps bring camera battery charger and car adaptor/inverter to charge batteries in car)
- Extra memory cards
- Camera bag
- Remote shutter release (optional, not really necessary if camera has short self-timer option)
- Lens cleaning cloths or tissues
- Rubber Boots in case we get a chance to photograph the salt ponds near Amboy

The 10 Essentials: Every day in the Desert

- Day pack
- 4 quarts of water
- Closed toe hiking shoes
- Lunch and 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.

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.
- Before leaving the class, check out with the Desert Institute Representative.

Instructor Biography

SANDI WHEATON is a freelance tour director and photography instructor based in Windsor, ON and the Salton Sea, CA. After being downsized from General Motors in 2009, she took a life-changing drive across America on historic Route 66, creating three photography projects and an award-winning travel blog. One of Sandi's greatest passions and long-term photography projects is the ecologically-troubled Salton Sea in southern California. She has been visiting and photographing the Salton Sea since 2004, sharing the work through several solo exhibitions over the years. A true globetrotter, Sandi leads photography tours in Iceland and California, has taught Forensic Photography at the University of Windsor, and teaches far and wide with Crystal Cruises as a guest lecturer, teaching "Creative Media Fundamentals."

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