

at Joshua Tree National Park

74485 National Park Dr. Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

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National Parks at Night

Information

Date/ Time: Friday, May 1, 2:30 pm – 11 pm

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

74485 National Park Dr., Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Instructors: Gabriel Biderman, Nightscape Photographer

Matt Hill, 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 begin at the Rattlesnake Room at the park headquarters in Twentynine palms for a discussion about night photography - the night sky, necessary camera equipment, camera settings, focusing at night, light painting, field techniques, and how the same techniques can be used to create star trails.

We will take a dinner break at 5 pm. There will be enough time to drive into town to get food, or you can bring your dinner with you. You can eat in the classroom or on the picnic tables outside of the classroom. We will caravan into the park to Keys Ranch at 6 pm.

At astronomical twilight we will be ready to start our nightscape photography. We will break into small groups who will be free to wander Keys Ranch and work on subjects of their own interest. Gabe And Matt 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

Friday, May 1, 2:30 pm – 11 pm

Oasis Visitor Center

- 2:30 pm - meet at the Rattlesnake room
- 2:30 pm – 5 pm - discussion of night photography and light painting
- 5 pm – 6 pm – dinner break
- 6 pm – 6:45 pm – carpool to Keys Ranch
- 7 pm – 11 pm– nightscape photography field instruction

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, or LED panel with orange filter
 - 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
 - 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

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

Matt Hill is a lifelong night photographer. A partner and educator with National Parks at Night, he is dedicated to the craft of astro landscape photography and teaching others how to enjoy it in the wild, protected lands around the world. Matt is also a cut paper artist, a geek, and somewhat a rogue—always seeking creative answers to “what if?” by combining things that often aren’t supposed to be combined.

Gabriel Biderman is a travel and self-taught fine art photographer, who has been exploring the night topography for over 20 years. Gabe loves the “process” of creating the image and pushing the limits to what we can do when we capture time for seconds, minutes, or even hours! He is well versed in both film and digital, and enjoys blending the surreal look of the night to enhance historic and urban landscapes. Gabriel is also the co-founder of National Parks at Night, the leading source for night photography education and hands-on workshops since 2015. He has also been teaching night photography online with Creative Live and B&H as well as with schools (Rocky Mountain School of Photography, Maine Media Workshops) and at various trade shows and institutions since 2008. Gabriel’s work has been exhibited in New York, London, San Francisco, and Hawaii and he is the author (with Tim Cooper) of Night Photography – From Snapshots to Great Shots.

* 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.

