

Fundamentals of Landscape Photography Workshop

Information

Date/ Time:

Friday, March 17, 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM (Campers will meet at Park Headquarters)

Saturday, March 18, 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM (Field)

Sunday, March 19, 5:00 AM – 4:00 PM (Field)

Meet at: [Park Headquarters](#) 74485 National Park Dr., Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Instructor: Jon Norris, Landscape Photography Instructor and Workshop Guide

Overview

Are you new to landscape photography, need help with your camera setup, or feedback/tips on how to improve? Join our workshop to take the next step in your photographic journey, learn and understand the essentials so that you can unlock your creativity and enjoy capturing images of the natural world.

We'll visit several different and varied locations in Joshua Tree National Park to talk about and practice landscape photography during the workshop. The instructor will be available to coach you in real time on specific techniques you'd like to learn or answer any questions you may have.

During the workshop, you'll enjoy and photograph the stunning desert landscape at different times of the day, from nautical twilight through sunset and into the night. Photographic subjects will include Joshua Tree's fantastic geologic features and its diverse range of fauna and flora.

We'll have time to review and discuss our images throughout the weekend, and the instructor will provide suggestions on how to continue developing your photography.

The workshop is intensive but will also be enjoyable and will give you lots of ideas and techniques that you can integrate into your photography.

We have reserved the pristine Lost Horse campground for this workshop, which is not normally open to the public. Camping is optional but offers an exciting experience to fully immerse yourself in the outdoors for the weekend.

For those who prefer not to camp, please plan to find your own accommodation in Twentynine Palms. We'll provide maps to guide you to each of the shooting locations.

Itinerary

Friday, March 17	
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM	Set Up Camp (Lost Horse Campground)
7:00 PM -9:00 PM	Welcome and Class 1 (Rattlesnake Room)
9:00 PM	Head to Camp
Saturday, March 18	
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast (Lost Horse Campground)
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Photo Hike 1 (Wonderland Ranch / Wall Street Mill)
12:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Lunch / Relax (Lost Horst Campground)
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Class 2 (Lost Horse Campground)
5:30 PM – 10:00 PM	Sunset and Night Photography (Cap Rock)
Sunday, March 19	
5:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Twilight & Sunrise Photography (Quail Springs)
8:30 AM – 10:00AM	Breakfast / Relax / Break Camp (Lost Horse Campground)
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Photo Hike 2 (Ryan Ranch)
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch (29 Palms / Rattlesnake Room)
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Class 3 - Review / Q&A (Rattlesnake Room)

Note: We will carpool to all our shooting locations to avoid excess traffic in the park.

What to Bring to the Workshop

Required Class Materials

- Digital camera (DSLR or Mirrorless)
- A wide-angle to short telephoto focal length zoom lens (a focal length range of 24-105 mm (full-frame equivalent) is ideal. If you have more than one lens, feel free to bring them with you. There will be opportunities to shoot with wide-angle, normal, and telephoto lenses during the workshop.
- A sturdy tripod
- Extra camera batteries (and charger)
- Spare memory cards
- Camera/lens cleaning supplies
- Your camera manual. You must know at least the basic functions of your camera. We'll go through what else you need to know during the workshop.
- Small backpack or camera bag
- Headlamp or flashlight (with a red filter if possible)

Optional Class Materials

- Remote shutter release (optional)
- Circular polarizer filter (optional)
- Laptop computer with your preferred image processing software
- USB thumb drive (to share images with the instructor)
- Notebook and pencil/pen

Camping Materials

- Tent
- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Sleeping pad or cot
- Lantern
- Headlamp or flashlight
- Whistle
- Trash bags
- Food (there's limited time for cooking at the campsite)
 - Sack breakfasts for Saturday/Sunday at the campsite
 - Sack lunch for Saturday at the campsite
 - Sack dinner for Saturday at our sunset shoot location
 - Lunch for Sunday – several options for purchasing lunch are available in Twentynine Palms
- Water (bring plenty as there is no drinking water at the campsite)

Personal Materials

- Sturdy hiking boots (strongly recommended). Open-toe or other lightweight shoes are strongly discouraged.
- Appropriate clothing (plus extra layers) including:
 - Socks
 - Underwear
 - Light colored long sleeve shirt (for sun protection)
 - Long pants
 - Sweatshirt
 - Warm jacket
 - Warm gloves
 - Broad brim hat
 - Rain gear (you never know)
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Toiletries
- Trekking poles

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-Moderate. We'll be walking about 3-4 miles (in total) during the day, generally on smooth dirt trails.

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 and be aware of uneven ground.
- Before leaving the class, check out with the Desert Institute Representative.

Instructor Biography

Jon Norris is a professional landscape photographer and workshop guide, a JTNPA business member, and a Desert Institute volunteer. Jon offers one-to-one and small group workshops, plus photographic adventure tours, in Joshua Tree National Park. He started taking photos at the age of 14 with his trusty Zenit 10, teaching himself the fundamentals of photography via countless rolls of poorly exposed 35 mm film. Born in the UK, Jon spent 25 years working in aerospace engineering (15 years while living in France and Germany). As a recovering engineer, he now divides his time between marketing and photography and lives in Lake Forest, OC.

See <https://jonnorrisphoto.com/landscape-photography/about> to learn more about Jon.

* 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.