



SNOWDONIA PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

March 2022



GENERAL INFORMATION

The workshop is planned to give the photographer a range of skills and experience in both the technical and creative aspects of photography. Locations are primarily heritage based and designed to offer experience in camera control, technique and composition.

Key points as follows:

- The locations are largely 'landscape and heritage 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 inside. However, in the event of bad weather, tutorial sessions may be extended.
- 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 fairly easily accessible from car parking areas with little walking involved between locations (no walk more than 10 mins).

ABOUT SNOWDONIA

Snowdonia National Park is an island of 2,132km² extending from Aberdyfi in its southerly extent and Conwy on the north Coast. It is an incredibly diverse national park, providing a huge range of photographic opportunities. It's best known for its mountains but includes industrial landscapes, best known around Blaenau Ffestiniog, some great waterfalls, historic castles and monuments, inland lakes and picturesque villages such as Beddgelert. It also has stretches of coastline on its western edge, though this is more given over to holiday parks and perhaps offers less to the photographer. Apart from the Snowdon range, it includes the lesser known mountains of the Rhinogs, the Arrans, and in the southern part, Cadair Idris, one of our destinations on this trip.



Maps (available throughout the National Park or in advance of the workshop):

- OS 1:50,000 Landranger Map 115, Snowdonia / Yr Wyddfa
- OS 1:50,000 Landranger Map 12114, Anglesey / Ynys Mon
- OS 1:25,000 Explorer Map OL 17, Snowdon / Yr Wyddfa
- OS 1:25,000 Explorer Map OL 18, Harlech, Portmadog & Bala

Useful references:

- **Lonely Planet:** <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/wales/snowdonia-national-park-parc-enedlaethol-eryri>
- **Visit Snowdonia:** <http://www.visitsnowdonia.info/>

WORKSHOP PREPARATION

- Please ensure that you read this paper thoroughly before the workshop. It contains information and advice which will help you get the most from your time
- Please try to understand as much as you can about your camera beforehand, and 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

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Within the workshops we're able to accommodate a range of experience and previous knowledge but you should have some previous experience and your primary interest will be a love of the landscape and a wish to interpret it through your photography. We will cover a range of photographic subjects and themes, developing your range of knowledge and skills and explore your own preferences.

The itinerary is in outline form and may be modified according to the specific capabilities and preferences of participants. You will need a reasonable level of fitness to complete the mountain days but these elements of the trip can be amended in accordance with your capabilities. Most locations however, are within easy reach of the car. We may also make day-by-day changes to locations to allow for weather conditions or group preferences. The range and quality of teaching is not affected by any changes.

The workshop is available as a Weekend or 3 day option.



WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

Whatever your existing level of knowledge and experience, the workshop offers expert tuition in both the technical and creative aspects of photography and enable you to create striking images. They offer learning in the latest techniques in digital photography, using Photoshop and Lightroom at the end of the course to process your images.

Finally, although our courses are essentially outdoor or 'landscape' based, any course participant needing advice on any other aspect or subject in photography need only ask. We will do our best to help and if possible allow time during the workshop.

Key skills which the workshop covers for example:

Technical skills:

- Recommended camera settings for landscape photography
- Use of lenses in landscape photography
- Taking control of your image through use of manual camera settings
- Use of filters and accessories and how they can enhance your photography
- Shooting in RAW and RAW processing

Creative understanding

- Guidelines to effective composition – from the basics to advanced.
- How to create dramatic landscapes through understanding light and the weather
- Long Exposure and Night Photography
- Light and colour theory
- Creative uses of long exposure photography.
- Understanding Black & White photography

Digital camera and processing techniques:

Our priority will be optimum processing of your RAW image, but we will introduce other techniques.

Theory Sessions

We will include theory sessions which will mainly take place in the evenings, but also potentially during the day in the event of bad weather. In this case, we would also spend additional time on post-processing. Main theory subjects include the following:

- Composition in Landscape Photography
- Developing a Style in Landscape Photography
- How we perceive and interpret the landscape
- Long Exposure Photography
- The Weather, Seasons and Light in Landscape Photography
- People and the Landscape
- Travel Photography – creating a story of your trip



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.

ITINERARY DETAILS

Itineraries indicative and are subject to change according to weather conditions and timings.



FRIDAY ITINERARY

Blaenau Ffestiniog and Porthmadog area

We explore the heritage, culture and history of Snowdonia and the North Wales coastline. We visit slate mines, medieval castles, historic features and monuments. exploring the area in a range of conditions from dawn to daylight with an emphasis on Long Exposure Photography. The Friday session covers the slate quarries at Blaenau Ffestiniog and the heritage of the Porthmadog area.

The Friday itinerary below might be amended to include a dawn start over Blaenau Ffestiniog but this depends on the weather and clients travel / accommodation arrangements

FRIDAY 10AM - 8PM: BLAENAU FFESTIONIOW TO PORTHMADOG AREA

Catch the sun coming with spring light up over Blaenau Ffestiniog and explore the nearby landscape.

Introductory session at cafe in Blaenau Ffestiniog 9.00 - 10.00 am covering:

- Overview of use of manual camera controls & exposure theory in Landscape Photography
- Understanding composition and technique for Heritage & Long Exposure Photography

Morning Session – Views of Blaenau Ffestiniog and Cwmorthin Slate Quarry from 10.30am

We explore the slate quarries and views over the town. Cwmorthin is best known for the stunning lake in the heart of the quarry and industrial remains

LUNCH BREAK WITH REVIEW SESSION 1.00 - 2.00pm

Afternoon Session – From Harlech Castle to Barmouth 2.30 pm - 4.30pm

We head south along the coast to the historic Harlech castle and the coastal town of Barmouth

Evening . Night Session – Ynyspandy Slate Mine 5.00pm - 8.00pm

Ynyspandy Slate Mine is a great subject in daylight or at night time so we explore its many views

www.creativephotographytraining.co.uk



SATURDAY ITINERARY

Snowdonia Mountains and Llanberis area

We explore the heritage, culture and history of Snowdonia and the North Wales coastline. We visit slate mines, medieval castles, historic features and monuments. exploring the area in a range of conditions from dawn to daylight with an emphasis on Long Exposure Photography. Saturday includes general landscapes and features in the central mountain area of Snowdonia

FROM BETWS-Y-COED TO CAERNARFON CASTLE

Optional Dawn Start at the Lone Tree, Llanberis from 7.00am

A clichéd view but very accessible with the sun in the right place for dawn in autumn!

Morning Session: Tryfan views from Afon Lloer mountain stream 9.00am

The view to Tryfan from Afon Lloer is one of my favourite places in Snowdonia. We capture this view in morning light.

Morning Session: Tryfan views and the Fairy Glen from 9.00am

We then go on to the Fairy Glen near Betws y coed. This is a beautiful waterfall set in a wooded valley

Travel to Llanberis area, review session and lunch break at Siabod Cafe - from 11.00 - 12.00pm approx

Afternoon Session – Dolbadarn Castle and Llanberis Slate Quarry 1.00pm - 3.30pm

We explore the extraordinary landscape of the Llanberis Slate Quarry in the afternoon.

If you've not been there think of a Snowdonia version of Machu Picchu with a cascade of ruins set on steep cliffs and a mountain backdrop! We also visit the hilltop castle at Dolabarn

Evening / Night Session – Caernarfon Castle from 5.00pm

Example night image above. We capture the castle in evening light and at dusk

Finish around 7.30pm

Includes review of pictures & feedback.

www.creativephotographytraining.co.uk



SUNDAY ITINERARY

Isle of Anglesey

We explore the heritage, culture and history of Snowdonia and the North Wales coastline. We visit slate mines, medieval castles, historic features and monuments. exploring the area in a range of conditions from dawn to daylight with an emphasis on Long Exposure Photography. Sunday is spent on the island of Anglesey (Ynys Mon)

OPTIONAL DAWN START from 7.00am at Llanddwyn Island

Dawn and Morning Session at Llanddwyn Island to 11.00am

One of the most stunning places in the UK, Llanddwyn island is rich with heritage and photographic opportunity. We start at dawn and explore the island and the surrounding coastline.

Coffee Break at local cafe - from 11.30 - 12.30pm approx

Afternoon Session – Trwyn Du and South Stack lighthouses 1.00pm - 3.30pm then Depart

We visit 2 other famous lighthouses on Anglesey before finishing

Review session to finish the workshop - TBC later in the week via Zoom.

Includes review of pictures & feedback.

www.creativephotographytraining.co.uk

EQUIPMENT / OTHER

Essential requirements:

- Camera (& lenses if separate from camera)
- Memory Card (s) with room for minimum 500 images shot in RAW (suggest min 32GB minimum or 64GB if you have 20 mpx camera or above)
- Camera manual
- Card reader & USB stick
- **Full battery + a spare & battery charger.**

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

- Tripod (this should be a sturdy & heavy enough to hold your camera in windy conditions)
- Remote release (a essential for long exposures over 30 seconds)
- Filters: e.g. Polarising / Neutral Density / Graduated Neutral Density
- Any other gadgets you have – e.g. flash

I can assist with some of these if required. I have a full range of Nisi Filters for use during the workshop. 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 (depending on forecast):

- Suitable wet weather walking clothing and walking shoes / boots
- Food and drink for the workshop (although these can of course be purchased at a number off places during the workshop)
- Emergency contact details (see top of this paper - provided in advance please)
- You may like to bring maps (although I will have them with me). The 1:50 000 scale maps are No 115 Snowdon (Day 2) and No 114 Anglesey / Ynys Mon
- Umbrella
- Headtorch

Laptop Computer / IT Equipment

I will bring a laptop but you may wish to bring your own loaded with your post-processing software.



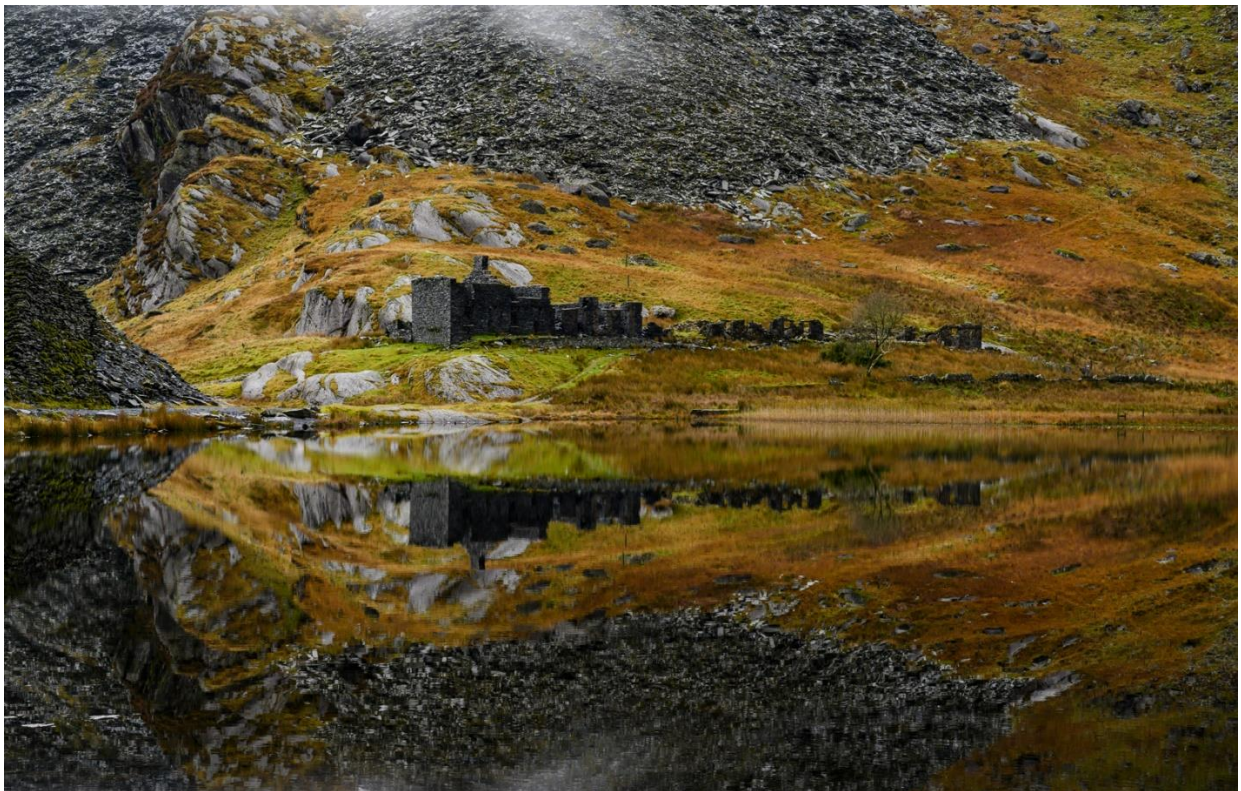
INCLUSIONS / EXCLUSIONS

Workshop Price includes:

- Expert tuition and Guide Services with Nigel Forster
- Transport to and between locations (up to 4 passengers can be transported in my car). If we have over 4 in any workshop, then a volunteer driver will be required & given a £50 discount from the workshop fee.
- Photographic instruction and full course notes (in PDF form)
- Use of camera equipment if required
- Filters and other accessories if required

Workshop Price excludes:

- Accommodation
- Meals / drinks.
- Transport to Snowdonia National Park (except by prior arrangement)
- Holiday insurance & insurance of personal camera equipment



Autumn at Cwmorthin Quarry

EQUIPMENT / CLOTHING

Photographic Equipment

Essential requirements:

Please bring your camera and any equipment (and your camera manual if possible).

- Camera (with spare body) and Lenses (this might seem obvious but I frequently have customers who leave some lenses at home thinking they won't need them!)
- Memory Card (s). At least 64GB with room for 2000 minimum images shot in RAW
- Camera manual
- Card reader
- Full battery + at least 1 spare.
- **Your battery charger (do not forget this!).**
- Tripod

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

- Remote release
- Filters: e.g. Polarising / Neutral Density / Graduated Neutral Density
- Flash
- Monopod
- Any other accessories
- ***Laptop if you have it, loaded with your preferred imaging software (perhaps should be on essentials list above)***

(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).

Other Clothing / Equipment

Clothing / Footwear / Protection

- Waterproof Jacket and Trousers. These should be Goretex or equivalent material.
- Windproof jacket for dry but windy conditions
- DriFlo / Wicking layers are best for humid or wet conditions
- Fleece top & Jacket
- Walking Boots / socks and at least one other pair of footwear.
- A change of footwear other than your walking boots.
- Head protection: One or both of fleece or waterproof hat which protects ears
- Gloves. Waterproof and / or 'Windblock' Fleece pair. Fingerless mitts are also useful for accessing dials. Bring at least 2 pairs of gloves.
- Head torch with rechargeable batteries for dawn and night sessions
- Golf umbrella made from carbon fibre. Wind resistant ones are best

Other items for location use:

- Mobile Phone (however reception cannot be relied upon on Skye). We will need your mobile phone number in advance
- Maps of area (please see OS map list above)
- Flask for hot drinks



HEALTH & SAFETY NOTES (ADVISORY ONLY – HEALTH & SAFETY OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY)

Key general points are as follows:

- This photography workshop is based in terrain consistent with mountain and upland landscapes. We are usually out for 8-9 hours visiting a number of locations. Importantly we may also be reaching two or three of these locations in near darkness to catch dawn light.
- 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 workshop with you beforehand based on your answers to the Workshop Questionnaire.
- With exposed locations, on each day we will make an assessment of their safety, and make a final decision based on the weather conditions. There will always be alternatives if weather conditions do not permit our first choice
- ***Please note however that this is a photography course and not a mountain trek***; the emphasis is on stopping at specific locations to learn and practice photographic techniques and to explore the potential for great photography. Therefore, the majority of locations are fairly accessible from the car; however we do intend to offer 2 upland half days for those wishing to do this (see itinerary).
- We only stray from a public footpath or right of way to get to key viewpoints and all will be safe; you will therefore not be asked to experience unfamiliar or untested routes to photographic locations.

- *All are locations accessed by members of the public and promoted as such by The Snowdonia National Park Authority and Visit Wales. Anyone leaving agreed locations do so at their own risk.*

General Health & Safety Advice

Please bear the following specific hazards in mind (these are not comprehensive: others may be around which you should be mindful of):

- **Mountain Paths.** Be aware of the steep embankments and rocky outcrops. The path surface may also be slippery. Do not stand next to edges or back away from a vantage point without looking behind you.
- **Waterfalls.** These often have slippery and rocky paths and potentially fast flowing water at all locations. Never stand on wet rocks or in deep or fast-moving water to take pictures from; even if the vantage point may be better from there. Current can be strong and ground conditions underneath extremely slippery. Never, ever stand near the top of a waterfall.
- **Always wear waterproof walking boots & clothing.** Please also note the other 'Essential Requirements', such as a Headtorch listed above.
- **Don't forget how distracted you can be when taking photographs.** Look around you at all times. Do not at any time place your and others lives in danger by taking unnecessary risks.
- **Never keep your camera on a tripod while walking on uneven or slippery ground or near water.** 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.
- **Be aware of traffic at all times in towns and villages.** It is easy to become distracted with photography; be a conscious of other road and footpath users.

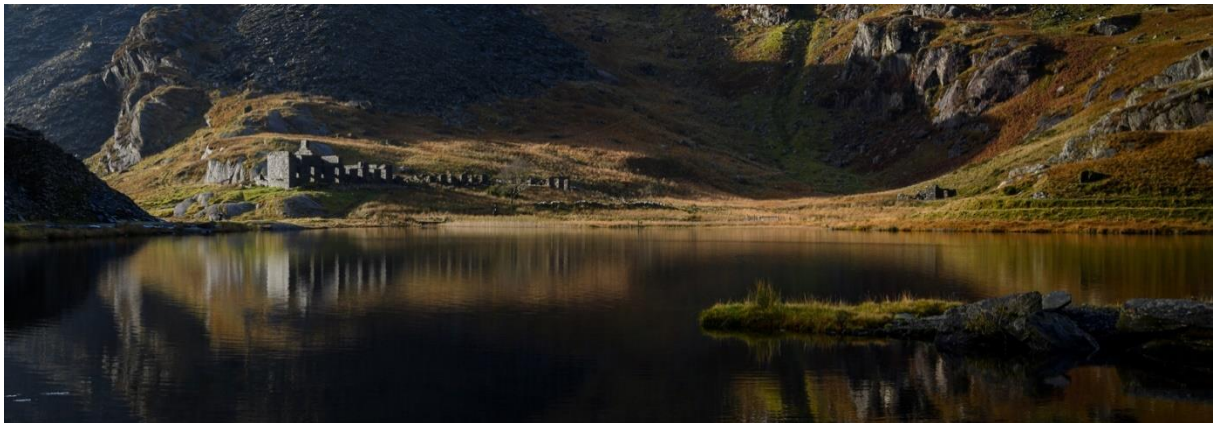
First Aid / Emergency Medical Treatment

We will have a full First Aid Kit available in the event of any minor accidents; this will be kept in one of the vehicles and taken with us on the mountain days. However, if you have any specific medical conditions or requirements please bring the necessary medications or first aid items with you.

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

Nigel will try to make the event as informative and enjoyable as possible; hopefully you will enjoy the workshop whatever the conditions! He will also be asking for your feedback at the end of the workshop for which your comments and suggestions, positive or otherwise, are very much welcomed as it’s the only way to ensure continuous improvement!!

CONTACT



**CREATIVE
PHOTOGRAPHY
EXPERIENCE**

Telephone: 01874 676402 / 07815 089835

Email: nigel@creativephotographywales.com

Website: www.creativephotographywales.com