



BIRMINGHAM PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP INFORMATION AND ADVICE NOTES



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 the day
- 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

GENERAL INFORMATION

The day is planned to give the photographer a range of skills and experience in both the technical and creative aspects of photography. The emphasis of the day is on the use of filters in landscape and cityscape photography. Locations are designed to offer experience in camera control, technique and composition, with photographic opportunities and challenges. Key points as follows:

- The locations are landscape and cityscape photography focussed but if you have other interests the understanding and skills covered are transferrable to other subjects.

- The locations are designed to offer a range of experience of use of camera control, technique and composition, with photographic opportunities and challenges.
- The walking is generally flat but totals 5-6 miles during the day so you'll be spending several hours on your feet. It may also be wet. Bring appropriate footwear and clothing.

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.

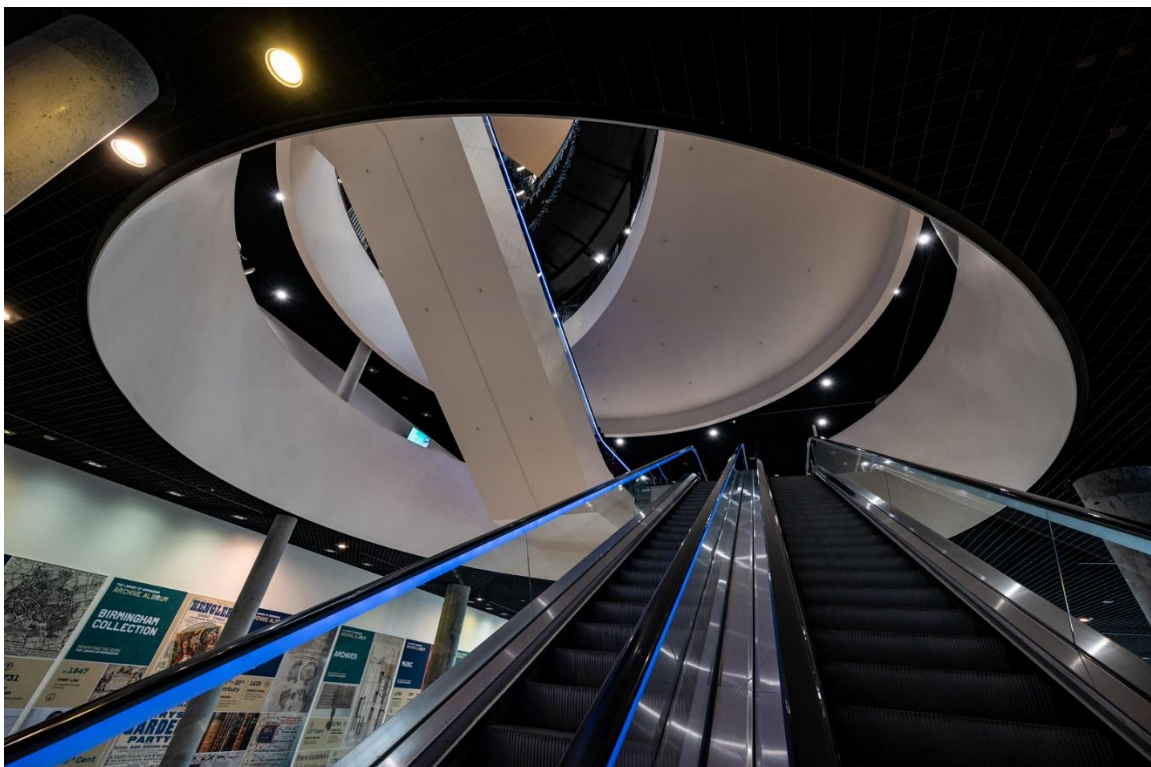
The 3 key themes that generally run through all or most tasks are:

- Developing your knowledge of your camera, its settings and controls
- Developing your understanding of exposure and natural light control
- Using filters in landscape and cityscape photography
- Understanding composition in cityscape and architectural 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 photography; such as panoramics, long exposures and night photography.

This is intended to ensure that you end the course with plenty of practise at learning techniques and are fully familiar with the use of your full range of camera controls.



THE WORKSHOP INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING INDICATIVE ITINERARIES & LOCATIONS (SUBJECT TO VARIATION / AMENDMENT ON THE DAY):

(Dawn starts are weather dependent – dawn locations are revisited during the day)



Birmingham Architecture and Cityscape Workshop

Saturday November 18th 2023 7.00am - 6.30pm approx

- 1. OPTIONAL DAWN START (tbc) 7.00am - MOOR STREET CAR PARK (VIEWPOINT)**
- 2. STANDARD START 8.30 am - GRAND CENTRAL, NEW STREET STATION**
Introduction session in Pret a Manger cafe (in centre of Grand Central shopping area)
- 3. Facade and Surroundings of New Street Station 9.30 am**
The facade around the station is amazing for reflections of the city. Opportunities for a large collection of abstracts
- 4 Selfridges and the Bull Ring 11.00 am**
The Selfridges facade is amazing for architectural abstracts and 'landscape style' images. We'll also explore the atrium at the centred of the Bull Ring Shopping Centre
- 5 Birmingham Central Library & Centenary Square followed by Lunch at nearby cafe 12 noon**
The Central Library is one of Birmingham's most impressive contemporary buildings. We explore the library inside and outside, as well as looking for opportunities in the square itself
- 6 The Jewellery Quarter / Chinatown 1.30pm**
Explore buildings from the Industrial Revolution era and a photogenic graveyard
- 7 Gas Street Station and Brindley Place (from 3.00 - 5.00 pm)**
We go to Gas Street canal Basin for sunset and mixed lighting photography as it gets dark. The canal has some superb light and colour reflections
- 8 Birmingham at night to workshop close around 6.30 pm**
Finally on the way back to New street Station, we look for night opportunities at Centenary Square and look for Tram Light Trails. Anyone needing to get back for earlier train can depart accordingly.

Post-Workshop Review Session

Post-Processing and Review Session via Zoom during the following 2 weeks

www.creativephotographytraining.co.uk

EQUIPMENT

Essential requirements:

- Camera & lenses if separate from camera (if you have them bring a range of lenses as there will be an opportunity for wide, telephoto and standard length shots)
- Memory Card (s) with room for minimum 500 images shot in RAW (suggest min 32GB preferably 64GB+)
- Camera manual (if you have it – but usually available as online PDF anyway)
- Card reader & USB stick
- **Full battery + preferably a spare & battery charger (IMPORTANT!!).**
- Tripod (while not essential for much of the workshop, attending without a tripod will mean that features of the workshop such as night and long exposure sessions and interiors will be difficult to fully participate in)

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

- Remote release
- Filters (although Filter Systems will be available to you during the workshop)
- Any other gadgets you have!

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. My course notes, which are provided to you in digital form, also provide comprehensive information on equipment.

Until recently, I had suggested bringing along a laptop for the post-processing sessions. However, I now conduct most post-processing and review sessions via zoom after the completion of the workshop so unless you normally bring one with you on trips, this is not essential.

Other essential requirements:

- Suitable cold & wet weather walking clothing and walking shoes / boots
- Emergency contact details (see top of this paper - provided in advance please)
- Umbrella if rain is forecast.



HEALTH & SAFETY NOTES (advisory only – health & safety of yourself and others is your responsibility)

We are out for many hours visiting a number of locations. However we ensure that the course is designed around your capabilities, and if applicable, takes full account of any physical limitations. If appropriate, we discuss the content of the course with you beforehand based on your answers to the Course Questionnaire.

However the following should be remembered:

- **All cities have a considerable amount of traffic:** It's easy to be distracted with photography. While our locations will generally be away from traffic, we'll be crossing roads and junctions on a number of occasions. Be aware of oncoming traffic at all times.
- **The Waterfront areas.** We'll be photographing at the edge of the waterfronts at places such as Gas Street Basin. Be aware of any exposed drops.
- **The area is busy with other pedestrians:** you will need to share space with other members of the public. Allow them to pass and show courtesy at all times.
- **Don't forget how distracted you can be when taking photographs;** look around you at all times. There may be a drop or steps behind you.
- **Never keep your camera on a tripod while walking on uneven or slippery ground.** Always remove it from the tripod and pack it away before moving to a new position. This is because if you do slip, your 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 & considerable pedestrian & vehicular traffic.

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.
- ***All my workshops are strictly no smoking, including in outdoor locations. This is for the comfort and enjoyment of other participants. Vaping outdoors is permitted but not encouraged!***



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