

JACK GRAHAM PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

PRE WORKSHOP INFORMATION

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You may be a beginner, amateur or professional. Prior to coming to our workshop, however, there are some things I recommend you take into account that will make your experience much more rewarding and enjoyable. Some of you may already be well versed in these aspects, others may not. We will be covering these topics in the field and in the classroom. However, having a good foundation and understanding of these simple concepts will make your time more rewarding. You have already made an investment in choosing to travel to our workshop, so please make one more investment and take a little time to prepare for the workshop in order to get the best return on your investment.

More information regarding weather, what to bring etc. will be sent out about one week prior to the workshop with more updates is possible.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) KNOW YOUR CAMERA and EQUIPMENT:** You do not need to travel the world to understand your camera's functions and capabilities. You can go online, read your manual and practice in your own living room and backyard. Knowing how to access your ISO, Aperture and shutter speed settings is primary. There are other functions you may not use, but you should know where they are located on the camera. For example, knowing where your depth of field button is, even if you are not using it.

"Practice does not make perfect. Only perfect practice makes perfect."Vince Lombardi

Please click [HERE](#) to access an article that I wrote concerning this subject. Please read it – it's something I hope you remember.

2) **QUITE IMPORTANT:** You should have a decent understanding of the relationship between aperture, shutter speed and ISO

More reading ... here's an article on [How to make Sharp images](#)

3) **TRIPODS:** Are almost mandatory. Tripods are the easiest ways to improve your photography. Yes there are times you will want to shoot without a tripod, most of the time a tripod is very important. The better the tripod, the better your images will be. That goes for your tripod head as well.

- Keeps your camera steady
- Allows you to view your image more critically
- Slows you down

As my good friend Bill Fortney says... "There are two kinds of tripods, ones that are easy to carry, and good ones." [Read this](#) --- it will offer you good insight on buying tripods and heads.

4) FILTERS

I am often asked; "do I use a UV filter." Yes I do, but very rarely. I use it to remove UV on clear days above 5,000 feet elevation or when the sand is blowing on the beach or when in Death Valley out in these types of elements. To use these filters to protect your lens to me is not proper. If you drop your camera and lens, will that piece of glass protect it? Probably not. The more glass you add to your lens the more it will degrade your images.

Adding filters can cause lens flare. Filters are flat and can act like a mirror, diffracting the light back at the subject after hitting the elements of the lens. This occurs usually when shooting during periods when the sun is about 30 degrees either side of the subject. Lens flare can usually be seen using the depth of field preview button (an invaluable tool in any camera).

If you insist on using a UV filter (or any filter for that matter) purchase a good quality one. (Like a Singh-Ray or B + W). Why would you buy an expensive and a quality lens and put not only a protective filter on, but a cheap filter made of poor quality glass. This makes no sense. Cheap filters will actualities transform your expensive lens into a cheap lens, sacrificing sharpness and general overall quality.

One last thought.... Adding multiple filters can and does cause sharpness problems. If you are using a polarizer a lot, adding *any* additional filters will cause degradation. Stacking filters can often cause vignette.

I am not a supporter of using filters when unnecessary. However, polarizing filters are very useful in a variety of situations and are worth the investment, especially considering that their effect cannot be simulated in post-processing. Be sure to purchase circular polarizers and not the linear variety, which may cause metering errors. You may also wish to consider purchasing a graduated neutral density (GND)

filter or two. These filters are often used in landscape photography to control contrast. The effect of graduated filters can also be accomplished by blending bracketed exposures, if you wish to avoid the expense.

Should you decide to purchase GND filters, consider that ... The **Singh Ray filters** are by far the more wildly used grads available. You can buy them direct from Singh Ray www.singh-ray.com

If you only can afford one---buy the 3 stop "graduated" and then if possible, the 2 stop "graduated". **Buy them in the PRO SIZE (4x6) with the proper COKIN "P" holder.**

OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST we will be covering:

- 1) [UNDERSTANDING DEPTH OF FIELD](#)
- 2) [SEEING the LIGHT](#)
- 3) [MAKING QUALITY PANORAMAS](#)
- 4) [PHOTOGRAPHING SUNRISE and SUNSETS](#)
- 5) [HDR](#)
- 6) [PHOTOGRAPHING LESS and SEEING MORE](#)

Remember, this is a Photography Workshop, not a tour. A good look at how our workshops function can be found [HERE](#)

Thank you all for coming. Please let me know if you have any other questions. We will see you all soon!

Sincerely,

Jack Graham

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