

JACK GRAHAM PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

PRE WORKSHOP INFORMATION © JACK GRAHAM



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 as 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) Have a decent understanding of the relationship between aperture, shutter speed and ISO
(Quite important)

- 3) [How to make Sharp images](#)

- 4) **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 tripod, the better your images. That goes for your tripod head as well.
- a) Keeps your camera steady
 - b) Allows you to view your image more critically
 - c) 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.

FILTERS—I am often asked; “do I use a UV filter”. Yes I do, very rarely. I use it to remove UV on clear days above 5000 feet elevation or when the sand is blowing on the beach or in Death Valley and I am 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 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 Breakthrough or B + W). Why would you buy an expensive and a quality lens and put (not only a protective filter on) on a cheap, filter made of poor quality glass? This makes no sense. Cheap filter will transform your expensive lens into a cheap lens, sacrificing sharpness & 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 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) filters. 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.

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND FILTERS FROM [Breakthrough Photography](#).

I use polarizers and ND filters from [Breakthrough Photography](#) exclusively. I am amazed that these products exceeded the quality of anything else I have found in the market. I can't say enough about these products, and many more are on the way. Graduated ND's made of **temperate glass** are now available. The cost of their products is minimal for what you are receiving in return. These folks really have it together.

You can access Breakthrough by clicking [HERE](#) . I cannot recommend these products strongly enough!

OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST that we will be covering

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

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

NOTE: MEALS, TRANSPORTATION AND LODGING ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE COST OF OUR WORKSHOPS.

Some folks eat less than others so we leave meals at your discretion. We do try and car pool as much as possible one we begin our workshop. Lodging is on your own as well. You are encouraged to stay in the hotel that we are basing the event from, however you certainly can stay elsewhere in the area. Often rooms are discounted by Jack Graham Photography at a special group rate.

As well, tips, gifts and other ancillary items are not included.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING!

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

Sincerely,

Jack Graham

www.jackgrahamphoto.com