

Astro Photography

There is a whole, beautiful world that only comes out at night, and capturing it can be tricky. Here you will find course and photo expedition options that will help you hone your astro photography. And have fun doing it. Please note: a certificate is issued only to people who attend our 6-week course. The field trip will be educational, but not ... certifiable.



Overview

Any accomplished photographer knows that low-light settings present serious challenges. But sometimes, depending on what you want to photograph - say, the Milky Way, for example - you can't avoid them. In fact, if you embrace the challenge and learn the right way to work within that framework, you can capture stunning, other-worldly images of the night sky. If that's something you've been longing to do, we can help.

Our Astro Photography course will include a brief review of the basics of stunning photo composition and camera-slinging. We'll then go over the gear that will make night photography possible, and the camera settings that will be necessary. We'll also go on a class field trip where you'll have the opportunity to practice your new skills in a live situation. The culmination of the class will be a show-and-tell slideshow showcasing your best work.

Included with the course are all the notes you may need to take. We already have that done for you. You will get a well-organized book with notes and information for each photography class. This course runs only once a year.

Course Requirements:

- A digital Point And Shoot or SLR (strongly recommended) camera with a wide angle lens
- For best results, a full frame camera with a 14mm lens is recommended
- Recording medium (e.g.: Film, Compact Flash or SD card)
- Instruction booklet that came with the camera
- Tripod + remote control for your camera



The Specifics:

Class 1:

We'll hit the highlights of aperture, shutter speed, and ISO, and then cover how they interconnect. We'll give a refresher on whitebalance and light metering so that the mechanics of your camera don't trip you up..

Class 2:

The gear, apps, and settings for night photography

We'll talk about some of the special equipment you'll need to get the most out your night photography adventures.

Class 3:

Idiosyncrasies of night photography (e.g., mirror lock, the 500 rule, noise reduction, etc.)

Because of the lighting - or the lack thereof, really - night photography is quite different from anything else you'll do behind the camera. We'll talk about those differences and how to cope with them to get the stunning shots you want.

Class 4:

Field Trip! (No sunscreen required)

We'll head out into the dark of night, and you'll get the chance to use all your newfound skills.

Class 5:

Editing and tweaking images

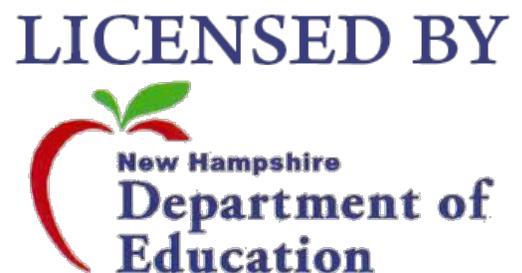
Just as night photography is different behind the camera, it's different in the post-processing, too. We'll explore the techniques and tools for editing night sky shots to make them really pop.

Class 6:

Student Showcase slideshow & Graduation Night

Bring your best shots to share with everyone - and then receive your certificate in Astro Photography.

What makes it Xtreme? Read on ...



Take your learning to the next level by adding on the Night & Day in Maine Xtreme Field Trip



Join us for a 4-day trip to majestic Acadia National Park. We'll include a couple of chances to capture the Milky Way, a sunset shoot, and all the coastal beauty you can handle. (Maybe a sunrise shoot, too, depending.)

Day 1:

We'll discuss techniques, and gear, with a manual photography refresher. After dinner, weather permitting, we'll take our first stab at shooting the Milky Way.

Day 2:

We'll spend the morning sharing the lessons learned in our night shoot and will go over editing techniques for night photos. Following lunch, we'll depart for Acadia National Park. Everyone should be prepared to drive, but not everyone will have to drive. We'll carpool as much as possible. The drive to Acadia will be a scenic one, and we'll be stopping along the way for some landscape photography assignments. We'll eat dinner near the national park and then head out for our second Milky Way shoot.

Day 3:

In the morning, once we've recovered from our late night, we'll return to Acadia for a workshop on shooting the ocean with a long exposure. Please note: you'll need an ND filter for this workshop. Mid-day, we'll return to our hotel to edit and tweak photos. We'll critique each other's work, gently, of course, and everyone will select their 5 best images for inclusion in a Student Showcase Slideshow. Maybe there will even be popcorn. For sure, there will be plenty of oohs and aahs to go around.

Day 4:

Depending on the will of the group, we may be up and out early for a sunrise shoot in Acadia. If not, we'll simply head home at our leisure. Either way, we'll have experienced this lovely bit of Maine as fully as possible in a short time.