

How to Get the Most Out of a Photography Workshop or Photo Tour



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- Introduction3
- Photography Workshops3
 - Types of Photography Workshops3
 - Infrared Photography*..... 4
 - Wildlife Photography* 4
 - Macro Photography* 5
- Advantages of Attending a Photographic Workshop5
- Photo Tours5
 - Types of Photo Tours5
 - Safari Tours*..... 6
 - Region Specific Photo Tours*..... 9
 - Activity Photo Tours* 10
 - Night Time Photography Tours* 11
 - Travel Photography*..... 12
- Advantages of Joining a Photo Tour 15
- Choosing a Workshop or Photo Tour..... 17
 - Identify Your Goals17
 - Level of Experience17
 - Appropriate Tour18
 - Recommendations/Reviews.....18
 - Inclusions/Exclusions.....19
- Equipment 19
 - Camera Equipment19





On Safari.....	21
Preparation.....	26
List of Questions.....	26
Check Your Equipment.....	26
Pre-Reading.....	26
Appropriate Clothing	26
Travel Essentials.....	27
Final Preparations	27
During the Workshop/Photo Tour	28
Have the Right Attitude	28
Embrace Criticism.....	28
Interact with the Group	29
Socialize	29
Learn All That You Can	30
After the Workshop or Photo Tour	32
Check your Camera Gear.....	32
Download and Store your Images.....	32
Culling.....	33
Process your Images.....	33
Review and Share.....	34
Practice and Learn.....	34
Keep in Touch	35

Introduction

You want to improve as a photographer but don't know how to gain more knowledge. You've bought books, magazines and been on the Internet for information. You have found out that what you might want is attending a photographic workshop or even a photo tour.

The first consideration is not to get confused between a photographic workshop and a photography tour. They are quite specific and if you don't do your research properly, you could end up being very disappointed and spend a lot of money. A workshop might cost you as little as \$100 but a photo tour is a much bigger investment and often involves a travel commitment.

Photography Workshops

A photography workshop teaches you new techniques in the field or in a studio or a classroom situation, so that you can improve your skills as a photographer. You would probably take a workshop to learn relevant new skills, techniques and gain sufficient knowledge before you paid for an expensive a photo tour.

Types of Photography Workshop

Workshops vary in length depending on the topic and depth of content the workshops are trying to cover. Some workshops may cover the basics of digital photography, while others are very topic specific and cover types of photography such as landscapes, wildlife photography, portraits, fashion photography, flash photography, macro photography, HDR, shooting fine art, infrared and low light/night photography, to name just a few. There is usually a workshop somewhere that will suit your individual needs.

There are 1 day workshops which usually cover one or perhaps two topics and where the participants are encouraged to master them individually during the day. At this type of workshop, you have the opportunity to take your time and concentrate on what is being discussed and demonstrated.

One week workshops cover a variety of topics, locations and skill levels. They have an equitable mixture of theory and practical sessions. Examples of images produced as a result of attending such workshops are:

Infrared Photography

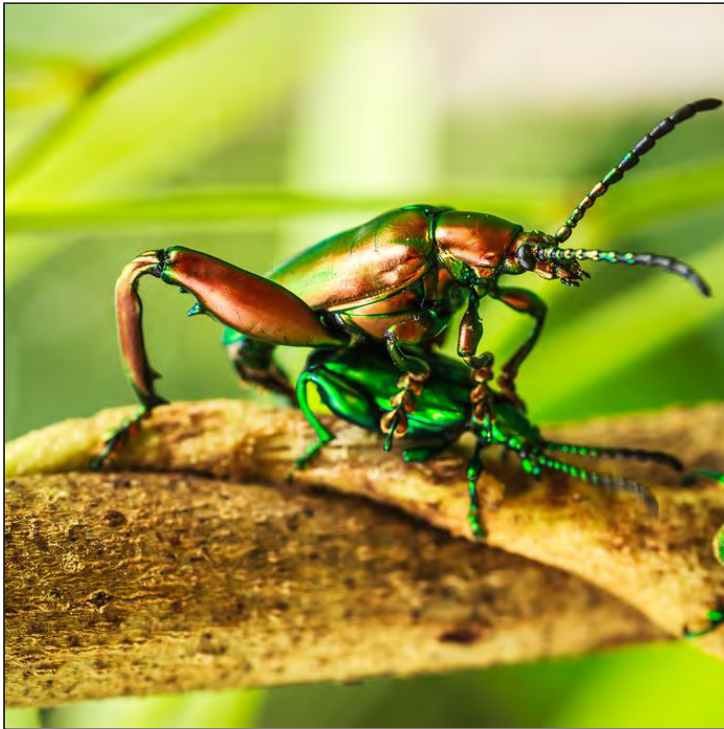


Wildlife Photography



Architectural Photography





If you are interested in learning a variety of techniques or want to shoot different subjects, a few photo tour companies offer great value by giving you exposure to several styles on one trip. This not only allows you to build up a great portfolio but also helps you to develop a niche so you can stand out from the crowd.

Advantages of Attending a Photographic Workshop

When you attend a photographic workshop, you expect to learn new skills or to hone your existing skills by listening to and watching experienced professional photographers. You would hope to improve your technique in a particular genre of photography and expand your knowledge in that area.

Workshops give you the chance to shoot new subjects or to look at familiar subjects from a new perspective. You will meet and interact with others who share your passion in photography. Most of all, you will be able to challenge yourself.

Photo Tours

You join a photo tour so that you get the chance to shoot in different, possibly exotic, locations with some minimal instruction added along the way. This is the main difference from a photographic workshop, which is mainly instructive, as opposed to a photo tour which concentrates on photo opportunities. Some photo tours include specific workshops topics as part of the package.

Types of Photo Tours

Photo tours are generally location, region or activity specific.

The most common type of location specific photo tours are safaris to places like Africa or India where wildlife abounds, seemingly only for the benefit of photographers.

Safari Tours



There are many safari photo tour operators who offer a variety of different packages that will suit most photographers. It's worth looking at different websites and finding out whether the operators are wildlife photographers themselves and have gained experience in this area.

One such safari photo tour company is Exposure Tours, whose Principal is Bryan Pereira. Bryan is a very experienced wildlife and landscape photographer with over a dozen international awards to his credit.

Want to know what it takes to become a travel photographer? Click [here](#) to see Bryan's biography!



You will be guaranteed one-on-one time with Bryan, as he takes you through different techniques and informal lectures on different compositions in the diverse safari environment. Exposure Tours photo workshops invite questions and encourage you to try different techniques and experimentation with the light that's available.

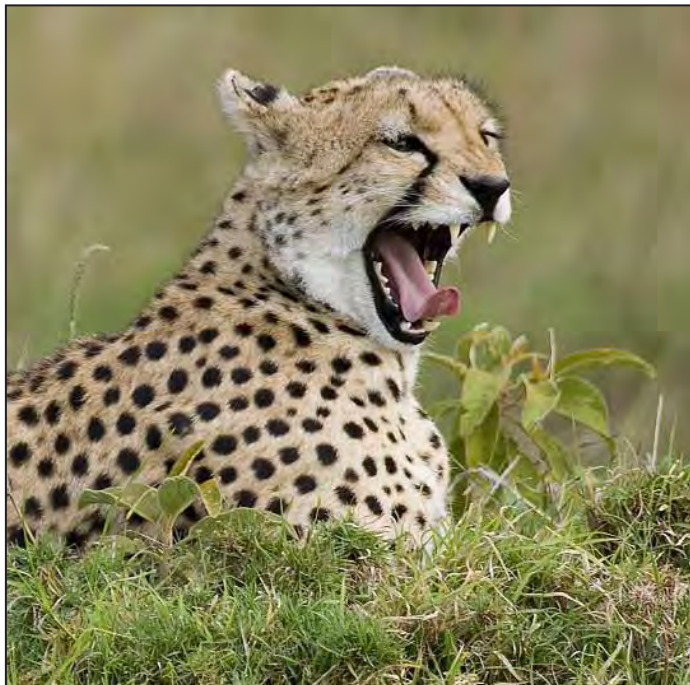
Their photo safari workshops are interactive and limited to only six people per trip and two per safari jeep. The landscapes around camp sites are stunning.



You will have the opportunity to capture the 'Big Five' in their natural habitat. Along with lions, elephants, buffalo, rhino and cheetah you might be lucky enough to even come across a leopard, or two!







Region Specific Photo Tours

Region specific photo tours look at ecological niches such as deserts, snowfields and glacier regions. Also included in region specific locations are grasslands, mountain areas and river systems.

You will be surprised to find that on safari with exposuretours.com, along with wildlife landscapes and portraits, you will also have a chance to shoot macro, HDR, and even infrared.



Activity Photo Tours

Activity specific photo tours cover aspects of photography such as aerial photography, i.e. taking images from helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. You can obtain some spectacular images in this way, far removed from everyone else's photos from the ground, as can be seen from this flock of birds taken from above.



How about taking photos from a hot air balloon?



Night Time Photography Tours

There is also a popular demand for photography tours involving night time photography, which includes astronomy and star trails in particular.

When comparing suppliers, set up a simple Excel spreadsheet. Start by looking at factors such as cost, duration, group size and bonus items. Compare at least three companies before making your final decision. See page 17 for details on choosing your tour.



Travel Photography



The average tourist with a camera captures images of just about everything while on their holiday. Often when they return, they are disappointed with their happy snaps because they look ordinary, just like everyone else's photos. If you want to improve your happy snaps from your vacation and turn them into great shots, then a photo tour could be the answer for you.

There are photo tours that take in the popular tourist attractions of Europe for instance, where you will learn to appreciate perspective, composition, and correct exposure levels for any situation day or night, so that your images of Big Ben and Buckingham Palace stand out from the crowd.

One such photo tour is organized by Exposure Tours organizes one such tour - they will help you explore Venice and London, two of the most beautiful and exciting cities of Europe. You can sign up for either or both of these tours, whichever suits you.

You will start your 5 day tour in London and visit all the major attractions such as Buckingham Palace, the Horse Guards, the Changing of the Guard, the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, St Paul's Cathedral, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus, the River Thames, the Tower of London and Tower Bridge.



Your tour of Venice also lasts five days, during this time you will visit well known sights and explore the narrow streets of famous canals. Special attractions that you will visit are the Grand Canal and St. Marks Square, Campanile di San Marco, San Giorgio Maggiore and the Doges Palace.





You will also visit the Dorsoduro region which includes the highest land areas of the city as well as Giudecca Island and Isola Sacca Fisola.

Exposure Tours will make your visits memorable because they take you to these places early in the morning and after dark when there are few other tourists about. You will be able to shoot magnificent sunrises and sunsets encompassing your favourite attractions.



At each location, you will have the time to look for unique compositions and angles as they show you various photography techniques.



On top of this, you will also have the opportunity to take part in workshops on HDR, shooting fine art, infrared and low light/night photography. Exposure Tours occasionally run a Portrait/Fashion workshop for group members who are interested.

They also offer a 10 day workshop in the visually stunning and timeless landscape of Tuscany.

Advantages of Joining a Photo Tour

A photo tour gives you the opportunity to visit different locations and photograph different types of landscapes and wildlife. You can expand your knowledge about different countries and their inhabitants and wildlife. You will also benefit from the knowledge of local guides provided by the photo tour company.



You will be provided with lots of information about the location you are going to visit and how to prepare for it in advance of your tour. Also, you may learn new skills and improve your existing techniques from experienced professional photographers, who will probably be part of the organising team. You will meet interesting fellow photographers who share your passion for photography.

A photo tour does all the organizing, planning, accommodation, meals and transport arrangements for you.

All you have to do is be there and take photographs. They will take you to the best locations at the best time of day where wild animals will likely to be.

Because you are travelling in private transport, your photographic gear will be accessible, safe and secure at all times.



At the end of the day when you are relaxing, there's still plenty to see without going very far! This photo of someone relaxing with a beer watching the elephants in the near distance, says it all!

Choosing a Workshop or Photo Tour

When you are ready to choose a photography workshop or photo tour, there are certain aspects of either that you should consider carefully before finally deciding.

Identify Your Goals

First, identify your goals, both short and long term. Do you want to continue to shoot the type of photography that you currently undertake or do you want to try something different and more challenging? Would you like to be able to produce better images for fine art, for publication or, just for personal use? Maybe you just want to be a better photographer.

Level of Experience

Choose the right workshop or photo tour for you in relation to your level of experience. You would probably enjoy it more if your fellow photographers are at, or around the same approximate level. If the organizers know their job, they will probably have a match up program to ensure that participants are at similar skill and experience levels, as far as possible. Exposure Tours goes further and also matches participants by camera brand.

Quite a few workshops are aimed at the basic level where you are introduced to the idea of aperture, shutter speed and ISO to achieve the correct exposure. If you have more than a basic knowledge, then another more advanced workshop would suit you better. Some workshops over several days, concentrate on shooting, editing and print-ing so that you get a good feel for the whole process. You may instead want to spend your days learning about different techniques that you are currently inexperienced in.

Workshop and tour companies often update their social media pages more than their websites. Consider checking facebook and twitter feeds for itinerary changes and discount offers.

Do you need any prior learning skills such as photo editing? Sometimes, there will be a session or sessions devoted to processing images so that the rest of the group can critique them during the workshop or tour.

Appropriate Tour

Make sure the venue is safe to visit at the time you are going. There are locations which are considered unsafe because of civil unrest.

Has the instructor/photographer got the right amount of experience in the topic you want to learn about? Does the content and itinerary appeal to you? Would you like to get up close and personal to your subject, without the inconvenience of cages and fences?



Recommendations/Reviews

Search for any endorsements for the company or instructor. This is usually the best form of recommendation for any workshop or tour.

Here's what a few participants said of Bryan Pereira of Exposure Tours:

"Excellent! Bryan is an inspiring speaker and his photos are dynamite"

–L.C.

"As you know I was concerned I wouldn't keep up with the group, thanks for taking the extra time to work with me, it was a great trip and I can't wait to go on safari again."

–Anchal W., London

"A great talk by Bryan"

–Miranda

"Thanks, Bryan, for sharing your experience and the amazing photos!"

–Alicia

"Beautiful!"

–J.L.

"I can not tell a how pleased we were with your organization, the very personal touch & for making us feel so safe at all times.... far and away exceed every expectation we had for a safari"

–Faheem & Farida, Toronto

Another form of recommendation is if the photo tour company has had any media acclaim as a result of the images taken on tour. Some of the images from Exposure Tours are featured in the National Geographic Top 30 Phenomenal Travel Photos.

Inclusions/Exclusions

Have a look and see what the price includes. Are meals provided or do you have to arrange your own? With a photo tour, you are likely to be expected to pay for your own travel to the venue. This expense will have to be factored into your overall budget.

Is the accommodation included in the cost of a photo tour? Don't assume that because it's not written in the itinerary, that items are included. Ask all the relevant questions before you sign up for a workshop or tour.

Equipment

Camera Equipment

Learn all about your camera from the manual before you get to the workshop. You don't want to have to refer to the manual at a critical point of taking that once in a lifetime shot. Take the manual with you, just in case.

Some photography workshops have their own studio set up, allowing you to use their lighting and diffusers etc. Depending on the topic that is being taught, they may even have specialist camera equipment that you can use. It's worth finding out from the organizers what is available to you.

Consider taking along a universal battery charger such as this one by Hahnel, which charges practically all Lithium Ion or Lithium Polymer 3.6V/3.7V, 7.2V/7.4V and AA/AAA Ni-MH batteries. It also has dual adjustable contacts, so that you charge a wider range of batteries. It also can charge most devices using a USB port.



A useful addition to your camera gear list is a Hoodman loupe which allows you to clearly see your camera LCD screen, even in bright sunlight. It fits over the LCD screen blocking out the glare of the sun.

Ask the tour company if they have a minimal equipment requirement or specific brands that they recommend. Be sure to also check the level of photography required and question them as to the level of other guests that might be travelling in the group.



Bring along a torch so you can see your camera controls during those sunrise and sunset photo opportunities. You will also need a notebook and pen, although a pencil works a whole lot better in the rain.

Do you need a laptop on site? You may need one to edit images at the end of each day. If so, you will need a cable or card reader to download the images from the card to your laptop. Make sure you bring your battery charger or power cable to the workshop or photo tour. Does the workshop or photo tour instructor expect everyone to have a specific photo editing program, such as Photoshop? If so, make sure it's installed on your laptop.

For your own comfort, you may want to include waterproof clothing and wellington boots. A sturdy pair of walking boots is still a requirement on many photo tours.



Some photo tour operators have a rent/loan option for camera equipment. If you need a longer telephoto lens, or a specialist lens, then this option may be for you.

Exposure Tours offers an onsite file backup service for all clients attending any workshop. They also recommend a variety of equipment for different circumstances and locations. Participants are provided with a list of basic requirements for camera equipment, as well as a recommended list of camera equipment which would allow you to get the most benefit from a photo tour.

Here are their recommendations for camera gear for different locations:

Consider the environment on safari when selecting gear as the roads and trails can be dusty or muddy, so minimize lens changes where you can. Participants with Exposure Tours often get close to the animals and some of their favourite and most published images have been taken with slow lenses under the 300mm range. This means it's not always vital to have the most expensive or newest gear.

Photographing animals in the wild is challenging yet exciting. Animals are constantly moving and at times keep their distance from humans. Despite the large size of many animals, you will need to be able to increase the magnification of your images. It's no point having an expensive camera with lots of megapixels if the lens is of a low quality. So if you are not on a tight budget go for the upgraded lens every time, you'll be amazed at what a difference 'good glass' can make!

Prime lenses are of superior quality to zoom lenses. So you might consider adding a 400mm or 600mm lens (\$6000-\$8000).



If you don't normally shoot with one of these powerful lenses consider taking advantage of a rental service. On arrival your equipment will be ready and cost a fraction of what you would pay to purchase such equipment.

Most of the time you will be in a vehicle so carrying your camera gear while on location is not often a concern for you. However for nature walks of short duration, a shoulder back or backpack might be advisable.

List of Gear on a Budget:

Nikon 18-35mm



Nikon 70-300 mm



- Camera: DSLR Nikon or Canon
- Lenses: 70-300mm plus 18-35mm or 18-300mm
- Lightweight tripod
- Spare batteries, UV filters
- Extra memory cards
- Powerful blower brush, lens cleaning cloth
- Lens support bean bag can be filled on site
- Speed light/flash

Recommended List of Gear:

Canon EF 300mm f/2.8L IS II USM



EF 16-35mm f/2.8L II USM



- Camera: X2 full frame bodies – Nikon, Canon or Sony
- Lenses: Fastest glass possible – 80-200mm, 400mm or longer, 17 – 35mm and 60mm macro or equivalent
- Speed light/flash
- Spare batteries
- Cleaning tools
- Tripod, monopod
- Double the amount of memory cards you expect to use
- Lens bean bag can be filled on site

Rural: landscape, shoreline, villages, towns

Comfort and portability are often the deciding issues when venturing into rural areas. Given that you might be away from busy commercial centers, back up gear is essential even if only in the form of a point and shoot camera or wide range zoom lens.

List of Gear on a Budget:

- DSLR camera
- Wide to telephoto zoom 18-300mm
- Lightweight tripod

Recommended List of Gear:

- X2 DSLR cameras
- Lenses: 70/80-200mm zoom, Wide angle, fixed or zoom 17/18mm – 35mm, mid range, 50/60mm prime. All lenses should be as fast as possible, at least f2.8
- Flash for fill in

Don't forget to pack a notepad. After the tour, having something to remind you of locations, techniques, etc. will come in handy.

- Assortment of filters, polarizing, etc.
- Sturdy tripod, with matched head



Monopod



Accessories: remote release, carrying system for camera and tripod-cleaning items, temporary water/sand camera protection, extra batteries and memory cards



Urban: cities and large populated areas

Maintaining a low profile and still having all your gear can be a challenge in an urban environment. In addition, personal and equipment security have to be considered especially in crowded areas or during late night location shoots.

Lastly, be mindful of who and what you photograph in places overseas. There could be restrictions imposed on you by the government or culture as to what you can do. Your local guide should be able to provide you with the correct information.

List of Gear on a Budget:

- DSLR or rangefinder camera
- Lenses: Wide to 200mm zoom
- Lightweight tripod

Recommended List of Gear:

- X2 full frame DSLR cameras
- Lenses: 70/80-200mm zoom, Wide angle, fixed or zoom 17/18mm – 35mm, mid range prime, 50/60mm under f2.8, f1.2 or 1.4 are ideal. All lenses should be as fast as possible
- Sturdy tripod
- Assortment of filters, polarizing, etc.
- Accessories: remote release, carrying system for camera and tripod-cleaning items, temporary water camera protection, extra batteries and memory cards.

Tripod Carry Strap



Preparation

List of Questions

Prepare a list of questions that you have always wanted the answers to in relation to the type of workshop you are attending. This is a useful exercise to ensure that you get the best out of a workshop or photo tour. If you ever needed to know how to achieve that particular effect; what camera setting gets you the best exposure for low light situations, or how to batch process many images at the same time, your list of questions will remind you to ask someone at the appropriate time.

Check Your Equipment

Make sure that all your camera equipment is in good working order and that you have sufficient memory cards and spare batteries for your camera and strobes.

Many people like to take the biggest memory card they can get. This would be catastrophic if your card failed, wiping out all of your images. Instead, use smaller cards that can be backed up every evening. Bryan Pereira's last trip to East Africa yielded over 5000 images, so maintaining a stringent back up and post production flow is important. It's an added bonus if you travel with a company that offers complementary back up of your files at every location should you require it. Be sure to check your card type is supported whether it is SD, micro or CF.

Pre-Reading

Contact the instructor to ask if there is any useful information or references you can look at before you get to the workshop. Many photo tour operators have a pre-departure consultation session.

Appropriate Dress & Clothing

When you are packing your luggage for photo tours, check the itinerary again to ensure that you have included appropriate clothing such as wet weather gear and a hat, if required, and that you have appropriate dress and headwear for special locations, such as holy places.

Be aware that in some cultures, you are not allowed to wear shoes in temples.



Travel Essentials



When travelling overseas, you will usually need a passport, possibly a visa and often vaccination certificates. You will need access to money, either in the form of bank notes, travelers' checks or credit cards etc. Check with the airline to find out what the baggage allowance is. If you are taking along camera luggage inside the aircraft, make sure that it will fit in the overhead lockers before you depart for the airport.

Think about the need for sun screen lotion and insect repellent.

If you are taking along prescribed medication, have a copy of the prescription in your travel wallet with the rest of your documentation.

Have a travel guide with you that includes basic everyday phrases, if the country's inhabitants you are visiting don't speak your language. If you have a Smartphone, download an app that will translate for you.

Consider the need for personal baggage insurance and medical insurance coverage, etc. Some companies have a comprehensive Flying Doctor service included in the package.

Final Preparations

Confirm the location meeting point or pick up points and times with the operator before you go.

If you're taking a laptop or tablet, scan copies of your equipment receipts and guarantees as well as your passport and other important information. Keep the files in a password-protected folder and upload a copy to a cloud service.

Check your camera gear again and make sure you have all your documentation in your travel wallet with you.

Notify your relatives, friends, bank, and embassy if you are travelling abroad. Leave a copy of the itinerary with someone you know at least. Let them know you will contact them occasionally during the course of your trip away.

Have a check list to refer to, so as not to forget anything important which may ruin your holiday.

- Money (internationally acceptable credit cards)
- Copies of certificates for recommended inoculations and prescription medicines
- Travel insurance
- Appropriate clothing
- Copies, either paper or digital, of the equipment you are travelling with, including serial numbers

During the Workshop or Photo Tour

Have the Right Attitude



By all means, bring your enthusiasm to the workshop or photo tour, but do leave your attitude behind. There is no room for over inflated egos and prima donnas in these situations. Everybody who participates has paid to be at the workshop and wants to learn or experience something new. People in a group usually learn more if there are no disruptive elements such as someone monopolising the instructor's time, asking questions they already know the answer to.

Embrace Criticism

You will need to be open minded to suggestion and criticism from the organisers, instructors, as well as your fellow photographers, if you want to improve as a photographer. It's no good just showing your work to your family and friends. They are guaranteed to like them and give you rave reviews. You need appropriate feedback from your peers.

Start by being self critical, as you are often your own worst critic. With every image you have shot, ask yourself the following series of questions. What was I trying to achieve with this photo? Does it say anything to the viewer? Is it a strong image? Could I have composed it differently to make it a stronger photo? Are there objects there that don't belong? Was I in the best position to take that photo? Could I have chosen a better time to take the photo? Once you can answer these questions honestly, you will be ready for feedback from others.

Interact with the Group



The best way to get the most out of a photography workshop or photo tour is to be involved by interacting and to share your knowledge and experiences among your group. Be friendly and courteous to instructors and fellow participants alike. You will soon realize that your confidence increases, that you are actually enjoying yourself and that you have a lot to offer the group.

Socialize



Attend as many of the social functions that you can, e.g. go to the welcome and farewell dinners. A photo tour is a great way to network and spend quality time with like-minded people sharing a passion and their knowledge. The evenings around the safari camp fireside, or the bar, where you can relax and discuss the events of the day are ideal for getting to know your fellow photographers.

Professional photo tour companies will make learning a fun and enjoyable experience. Find out about their social activities and group events and be sure to clarify if additional costs might occur. At a minimum, the best companies include farewell dinners and several group meals.



You may find that as a result, you will develop long term friendships with the people from the workshop or tour. In fact, some people arrange to go to the same events just to link up with friends they have met previously.

Learn All That You Can

Focus on what the instructor has to offer, both in experience and knowledge. Take ample notes, or even ask permission of the instructor if you could record a specific part of the workshop that interests you more, so that you could review that particular part over and over again at your leisure. He may, however, insist that you do not reproduce it or show it to others outside of the group.

If you don't know anything about a particular aspect of a topic, don't be afraid to ask as many questions as you wish. There is no such thing as a dumb question. You'll get lots more out of the workshop that way. Share your good and bad images and ask for feedback during critique sessions. This is the time to learn all that you can.



Try and improve your techniques during the workshop.



Understand however, that great photos often tend to happen after the workshop, when you practice what you have learned.

After the Workshop or Photo Tour

Check Your Camera Gear

Although you should always check your camera gear for damage or dust when you return from a workshop, and especially a photo tour, you should also think about whether your gear is adequate for the job.

Did you need another lens or a better lens? How did your tripod fare? Was it sturdy enough or did it extend high enough or able to get as low as required for all of the shots you needed?

Recharge all of your batteries in readiness for your next camera outing.

Reset all of your camera settings to standard settings so that you don't make a fatal error the next time you take your camera out. For example, high ISO settings used for your last night time shoot will blow out any day time images, the next time you go out to capture images.

Camera Gear Checklist

It is worth having a checklist of all your camera gear for when you return home after a shoot:

- Make sure that camera bodies are switched off.
- Recharge camera batteries after each and every shoot.
- Check that the flash units are switched off.
- Recharge Flash batteries after each and every shoot.
- Check that images on the memory cards have been uploaded to your laptop or PC.
- Set image quality settings to RAW or JPEG, depending on your preference.
- Set ISO to 100 or 200.
- Set aperture to wide open on all lenses.
- Set shutter speed to 1/125 or similar.
- Set mode dial to Aperture Priority.
- Set metering mode to spot or matrix.
- Set white balance to AUTO.
- Set exposure compensation to "0."
- Reset the focus point to the centre, i.e. single point.
- Set the shutter mode to single shot.
- Set all lenses with focus stops to focus maximum area of focus.
- Remove any and all filters.
- Check that the camera body and any/all lenses are set to autofocus (unless you just always use manual focus – in which case disregard.)
- Do a quick visual examination of the camera to look for damage, dust or defects.
- Reset additional gear like tripods, light stands, etc.

Download and Store Your Images

As soon as you can, and that is usually the next day after the workshop or photo tour, copy your images to a folder on your laptop or computer. Leave the images on the SD

cards for the time being, until you have processed them all. Then, reformat the cards for the next time you want to use them. This is just a safeguard method to minimise the risk of losing your images because of a faulty card or failed hard drive. You could even copy the images to an additional storage device such as a portable hard drive. It may seem like overkill, but be assured, accidents do happen.

Culling

The advantage of digital photography is that you can take as many shots as you want and store them all on hard drives, portable hard drives, DVD or flash drives. The disadvantage of this is you still need to process them all and it takes time to do it properly.

If you shoot in RAW, over exposed or under exposed images are not necessarily the problem they used to be when you shot only in jpeg format. You can usually recover some poorly exposed shots, unless the highlights are too blown out. Similarly with white balance, you can adjust the white balance after you have taken the shot, if you shot in RAW. This is not the case with a jpeg image.

Learn to shoot in burst shots as you have a better chance of one of the images being suitable, particularly with action shots. At the very least, you can probably use an image in a composite.

The first step in processing is to review all of your images and cull those that are not in focus, highly under or overexposed shots, duplicate images or where someone has managed to get in the way of your shot. As you may be able to use part of a shot in some way later, don't delete any of these culled shots. Store them in a separate folder for the moment.

You can use the star system available in some editing programs. The best ones will have 5 stars and the least, the rejects, will have none. Once you've gone through all of your photos individually, sort them with a click of the mouse, according to the number of stars. You will probably end up with a much smaller number to process than you had at the start.

For some photographers, this can be a difficult process as they don't like to reject any of their images. Storing them in a separate folder until later can convince them to review their images with a more critical eye. Only by being self critical can some photographers improve their techniques and skills.

Process Your Images

Open your favourite photo editing software, such as Adobe Photoshop. You will need to develop a routine, a methodology that allows you to process lots of images quickly. If you have images that were taken in the same lighting conditions, use batch processing to correct white balance, exposure, contrast and colour etc. Once you have completed that task, you can then open each image individually and adjust it where necessary. You should be prepared for hours of work or even days to complete the whole set, if you have taken lots of images.

If you've gotten into the habit of shooting in RAW, you will need to edit your images first in RAW editing software, such as Canon Digital Photo Professional, View NX, or Adobe Camera RAW. Otherwise, if you've captured your images in jpeg format, you can edit them as they are with your normal software.

Ask your instructor about recommended post-production workflows and be sure to note down locations, etc. for keywording purposes if you use software to file your images. Many companies will also feature the work of guests in social media, so be sure to ask if they credit you if this is the case.

Import each image and crop them for the best composition. Make adjustments to white balance, exposure, tone curves, saturation, noise reduction and sharpening where necessary. Straighten the image if required and spot heal blemishes or clone out unwanted objects. When you are happy with each individual image, save it as a JPEG image, or another appropriate format, and store it into a separate folder on your computer. Keep the RAW images in their own folder, as these are your “negatives” if you want to go back and make further or different adjustments at a later date.

Once you have completed all the processing that you want to, back up copies of your work on a different device or online method such as Cloud or Flickr, so that you can always recover your images in the event of an accident or failure in your main storage method.

Review and Share

Review your time and experiences at the workshop or photo tour. Did you achieve what you wanted? Check your list of goals that you compiled before you went on the workshop. If not, consider contacting the instructor from the workshop and ask questions that you forgot to ask, or didn't occur to you until now. Do you need to consider booking another workshop to fill in your skill gaps?



This is also the time to share your experiences with your friends and family. The best way of doing that is to show them the fruits of your labours (as long as you don't bore them to death with too many images). You can share them on your mobile phone, iPad, PC or laptop computer, on your website, or on one of the social media sites.

Practice and Learn

Practice all the new techniques and knowledge that your instructor at the workshop or your experiences on the photo tour taught you. This is one way to improve as a photographer.

Find additional information that will supplement and reinforce what you learned at the workshop. You may need to conduct some research and one of the best ways is to go online. It's amazing how many photographers have experienced the same problems as you and have already shared their experiences on social media such as Facebook or on You Tube videos.

Keep in Touch

Finally, keep in touch with your instructor and friends that you met at the workshop or photo tour. These contacts will develop into life long friendships. If there are any other workshops or photo tours that they think may interest you, they will pass the information on to you. You might just want to link up with your friends on similar outings in the future to share your passion for photography.

Photography Sources

<http://exposuretours.com/images/heder%20images/indeximage.jpg>

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<http://www.vanguardworld.com/index.php/en/pv/products/photo-video/detail-1-4-Tripod+without+head-904.html>

<http://www.vanguardworld.com/index.php/en/pv/products/photo-video/detail-1-8-56-268.html>

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