

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK WORKSHOP ITINERARY

OCTOBER 17-19 (\$395)

OCTOBER 24-26 (\$395)

Great Smoky Mountain National Park spans over half a million acres of beautiful Appalachian Mountain country. The Appalachian Mountains are among the world's oldest, most bio-diverse mountain chains. Their age and bio-diversity have led over the years to the development of breath-taking scenery and the perfect ecological conditions for plentiful wildlife—both of which together draw over nine million tourists per year. Because of the great expanse of the park, we have limited our workshop to primarily the Cades Cove area, although we will have the opportunity to visit Clingman's Dome, the highest point in the park.

Cades Cove is a beautiful stretch of land isolated and tucked away by its completely surrounding mountains. The Cove is a Promised Land for all sorts of wildlife, including deer, turkey and black bears. It also boasts a rich cultural heritage which can be studied through the preserved buildings of the original Cades Cove settlements, dating all the way back to the early eighteen hundreds. The combination of the mountains and their drizzly hazes with the rolling hills of the Cove and its fields, woods and streams provides us with the perfect backdrop to study the essences of photographing natural beauty.

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Dear Photographer,

This trip to the smokies will definitely be one for the books and should not be missed. The fall colors will be brilliant and the wildlife should be at their peak activity with winter fast approaching. The weather can change rapidly this time of year so try to be prepared for everything! Hiking boots are a necessity as is plenty of film or digital memory. A decent tripod will be great to have as well.

The Smokies are a joy to photograph every season of the year but the fall foliage and the large racks on the white tail deer make it an unforgettable experience (especially if you get off of the road a little bit like we plan to do on this trip).

Anyway, Chad and I look forward to seeing you in the wild. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Take care,



DAY 1 - Friday, October 17

5pm Meet and Greet

We will begin by meeting everyone in our workshop and discussing personal goals for the next couple of days. We will also begin to become oriented with everyone's cameras, the different brands, styles, and functions of the different equipment that is out there. Furthermore, bring any old work that you would like to share with the group to illustrate your photographic eye and style as well as discuss specific elements you wish to improve.

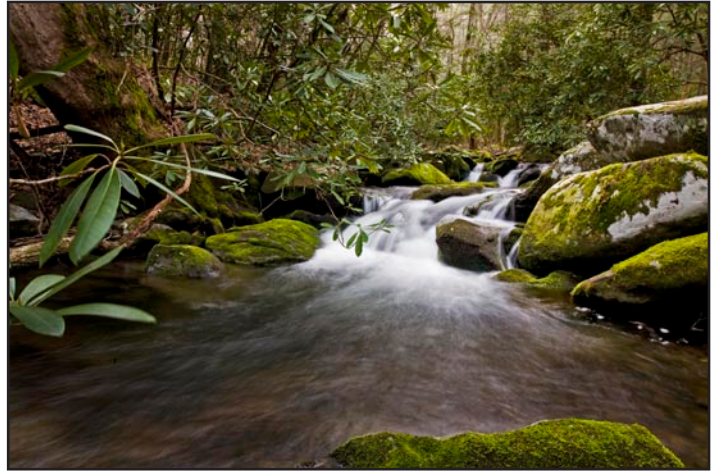
9pm Campfire

After we meet and become acquainted with everyone, their camera equipment and their work, we will break up for everyone to set up camp or return to their hotels. However, we will be making a campfire, cooking hotdogs and marshmallows and invite anyone to stay and talk on into the night.

DAY 2 - Saturday, October 18

6am Sunrise in Cades Cove

We will meet just before sunrise at the entrance to the circle of Cades Cove for our first day of photography. Hiking well into the Cove, we will find a spot to catch the sunrise in the mist about the mountains. We will spend a couple of hours photographing the sunrise and the spectacular morning sights of the Cove in any way that you choose. Josh and Chad will be available to answer questions and give guidance as needed.



8:30am Elements of Composition

After the morning photographic session, we will meet to discuss the various shots you took, what it was that attracted you to them and why, and the ways in which you approached these shots. Our first instruction will be on the elements of composition and how to use them to create interesting and dynamic photographs. We will also discuss the "photographic eye" and how to approach a scene or object that attracts you so as to capture it according to your vision.

9:30am Compositional Photographs

From the elements of composition that we talk about, we will set compositional goals and tactics for the photographic approach to utilize in our second morning photographic session. We will no longer have the sunrise, mist or other early morning elements that lend themselves so easily to beautiful photographs, so it will be necessary to be creative with your compositional approach. We will also use this time for individual instruction on any problems you may have encountered in our first morning photographic session.

11am Break for Lunch

1pm Anthony Creek Trail Hike

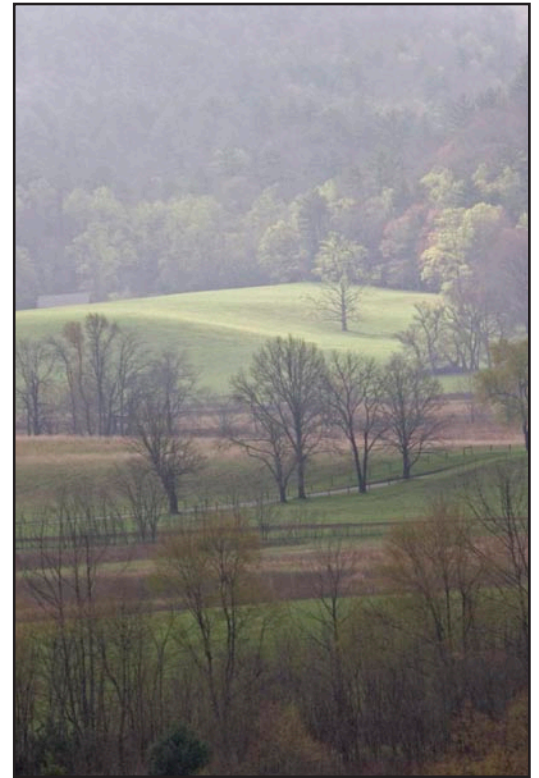
Coming back from lunch, we will gather at the picnic area of the Cades Cove Campground to talk more in depth about the camera settings that we spoke briefly about the night before and how each can be manipulated to alter the appearance of your images. We will talk specifically about aperture settings, depth-of-field, shutter speeds and stopped and blurred motion. At this point we will switch any cameras with automatic settings to fully manual mode so that everyone is in complete control over all the aspects of each photograph. With these things in mind, we will hike a portion of the Anthony Creek Trail to photograph the beautiful moss covered rocks and cascading water of Anthony Creek. We will ask you to approach each shot according to the new knowledge you have learned, pre-visualizing the completed image so as to help you adequately approach each shot. Josh and Chad will individually instruct as needed and answer any and all questions.

4pm Cades Cove Methodist Church

Following Anthony Creek, our first afternoon photographic session, we will hike to Cades Cove Methodist Church on the Cades Cove road for a brief interim session on macro photography and surface landscape work. While some cameras may be more suitable for this work than others, we will approach the subject as yet another compositional tool for the photographer to consider. Any camera will work for these purposes, but we will address specific macro settings and equipment.

5pm Sunset and Panorama

Our macro session positioned us in the middle of the Cove—a perfect place for beautiful sunset shots. We will meet to talk about panorama photographs, wide angles and grandiose landscapes. We will address lens lengths and which lenses are suitable for what work as well as various methods of approaching a wide angle landscape shot. We will also address small apertures, large depth-of-fields and the necessary accommodations to adequately utilize these settings. At this point, we will begin a hike around the Cove. We will disband to photograph according to your interests. You may choose to walk with us or nearby for personal instruction, question and answer, or to learn how we approach our photography and our individual photographs. You may also choose to return to your car and drive the loop to cover more ground and find your perfect sunset location.



9pm Campfire Critiques

Following our sunset photographic session and a dusk hike back, we will meet for yet another campfire. Make sure you bring any questions, concerns, or input of your own. We will also look at digital images if available and discuss your approach and tactics for each image in relation to the information we have been discussing.

DAY 3 - Sunday, October 19

6am Cades Cove

Following our information from the first day, we will break from the lecture approach for a hands-on and instructional style of teaching. This entire day will be spent hiking the 11 mile Cades Cove loop. Make sure you bring a sack lunch and any and all the equipment you will need. While we will spend the better part of the day hiking, it will be leisurely and designed around the sights of the Cove. We will have no time limits or designated stops but will spend our time as a creative group going where the light and the scenes take us. Along the way, we will focus heavily on individual instruction to work with each of you according to your specific strengths and weaknesses.

11am Lunch and Visitor Center

We will break for lunch at the half way point of our day long hike—the Cades Cove Visitor Center. We will give you some time to tour the center and learn many interesting facts about the Cove and its rich history. We will also take this opportunity to teach some more advanced methods for metering, perfecting your exposure, and exposure bracketing. We will touch briefly on the Zone System and what it means to you. We will also teach you advanced metering, including the different kinds of metering available to you both in your camera (if available) and through hand-held light meters and the proper way to utilize each metering method in your photography.

1pm Cades Cove

Following lunch and our lecture on exposure, we will continue our hike around the beautiful Cove. We will focus heavily on individual attention and making sure that each person fully grasps all of the tools they need to take their photography to the next level.

4pm Sunset and Clingman's Dome

We understand that some of you may have traveled a long way for this workshop and that you may have to be back at work the day following this session. Therefore, we will break up the formal workshop at this time, but we will invite any and all who are interested to join us at Clingman's Dome in the eastern part of the Park for an amazing place for a sunset. We hope that everyone can join us for this final shoot.

Useful Links:



Artistic by Design:

<http://www.artisticbydesign.com>

Official National Park Site:

<http://www.nps.gov/grsm/>

Driving Directions:

http://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/directions.htm#CP_JUMP_49420

Park Map:

<http://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/upload/grsmmap1.pdf>