



## Nature Photography Workshop

Tailored to the needs of your group, this workshop is typically presented as three sessions of four hours but may be extended for increased field experience or in-depth coverage of a topic.

### Course Content

Nature photography encompasses a wide range of venues, subjects and purposes. This workshop mixes classroom instruction with practical field experience to introduce aspects of nature photography. Field exercises augment the classroom instruction and permit the students to practice the techniques they have learned. The course is normally broken into three 4-hour sessions:

**Session 1: Composition, Venues and Examples:** Nature photography venues and examples, composition techniques, tools for composition, natural and modified lighting. Using “point and shoot”, this session concentrates on connecting your brain to the viewfinder.

**Session 2: Camera Equipment and Operation, Field Techniques:** Camera equipment and operation, polarizing filter use, field equipment, practical tips for the field, and projects for the beginner. Read your camera manual in advance and bring your questions to be answered.

**Session 3: Exposure, Focusing / Depth of Field, Workflow:** This session delves into the technical aspects of exposure, focusing methods, and depth of field and then discusses workflow: how to handle all those images you have made, including an overview of printing.

The course is customizable for your group. Based on the interests and ability level of the group, another advanced topic may be introduced or an individual area may be covered in more depth. Possibilities include printing, depth of field, computer controlled camera operation, stereo photography and time-lapse techniques. Contact us for options and pricing.

### Prerequisites

The workshop is intended for beginner to intermediate photographers. Students should bring a camera (digital strongly preferred) and be able to operate it in point and shoot mode. (Bring enough memory or film and batteries! Plan on 1 – 2 hours of fieldwork each session, depending on the weather.) Students may bring their own laptops for downloading and viewing their photographs. Students should be prepared to “hand in” a few images of their choice for group review and discussion. Although camera operation will be discussed at a generic level, students should also have access to their own camera manuals. (Electronic versions of camera manuals are often available at the manufacturer’s web site.)

### Instructor David Saxe

David Saxe is a systems architect, pilot and photographer with a strong background in scientific programming and systems design. Mr. Saxe has worked with digital images and techniques since the early 1970s. Working for fifteen years at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ, he created software for analysis, reduction and graphical presentation of astrophysics images, including data from Hubble Space Telescope. In 2002, he formed USA Aloft, LLC, a New Hampshire based software and aerial photography company, specifically to digitally photograph the Lewis and Clark Trail. Teaching a variety of technical subjects throughout his career, he began teaching nature photography in 2007. In addition to this basic workshop, USA Aloft offers advanced photography instruction for night photography, post processing and printing, depth of field, field exercises, computer control of camera systems, time lapse photography and stereo photography.