

# Jack Graham Photography Workshops FAQ's

V2012



[www.jackgrahamphoto.com](http://www.jackgrahamphoto.com)

Thank you for your interest in my photography workshops.

My photography workshops are designed for the nature and outdoor photographer, no matter what level. In 2012 I am entering my 17th year conducting workshops throughout the United States. My workshops give you, the photographer more time in the field to work on your photography while interacting with nature. We don't stop and photograph, then get back into our cars and drive from spot to spot. Typically, we work an area for some time, learning as we photograph. You can expect to experience landscape, close up and some action photography during our time together depending on the location. Our itineraries are designed taking the weather, light conditions and the best photographic opportunities into consideration.

You can expect to be out at sunrise, unless the weather is prohibited, then continue through sunset, taking advantage of the day's golden hour's. We usually take a rest for lunch, and image review etc., around mid day when the light is harsh and recharge ourselves for the balance of the day. We also take time during our workshop for informal classroom sessions to further critique our images and discuss important photographic topics.

I take everybody's styles, levels and expectations into account and provide my total attention and service to the attendee, that I have based my reputation on. My goal is that by the end of our workshop you will come away knowing that your photography has moved to a higher level.

My groups are small, usually around 7-9 attendees. This makes quick changes in itineraries, and more importantly..... lots of personal attention easy.

Without exception, I am well versed in the locations and logistics of each workshop location. I do not conduct workshops that I do not know the lay of the land, backwards and forwards. This is important in order to make the best use of our field time and get you to the right place at the right time, to insure successful photographic opportunities that each location provides.

I am a full time photographer, and workshop leader. Along with many established and well known workshop leaders, every month, I see new names of folks that are new to the workshop business advertising in publications. I have been in the workshop business for over 16 years. I have had attendees become close friends. I've even had attendees, meet each other and continue their friendship long after they meet on my workshops. My workshop return customer rate is about 23%. I take great pride in that.

My itineraries are very often copied (more that you would think!). I also take pride in that knowing that other workshops know a good thing when they see it. Some workshops offer lower prices than I do. My answer to that is quite simple. I do my homework, have vast knowledge of the areas I choose, scout these areas prior to the workshops and use the top guides and assistants when necessary. The old adage, "You usually get what you pay for" has never been truer.

My references (available on request as well as a few on this website) are from some of my satisfied customers over the years. Simply put, I am photographer, a workshop leader that loves to teach, and watch my attendees, and friends grow their photographic skills. When I review images with past workshop attendees over the years, long after our workshop experience, it really makes me feel good to know I helped.

Please consider joining us on a workshop. I guarantee, you' will NOT be disappointed..... and feel the marvel, the miracle and wonder of it all. in nature

I encourage you to stay in touch with me if you have any questions about anything that has to do with photography. Though we part ways on the last day of the workshop, I hope you will stay I touch.

Thank you again for you're interest.

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Below are a few questions that I am sure you would like answered regarding some general information needed prior to registration?

**Who participates, how advanced are the participants?**

Anyone will find my workshops to be a great learning experience. Our participants range from beginners to advanced amateurs.

**What kind and how much equipment should I bring?**

.I suggests bringing lenses from 20mm to 300mm if at all possible. Some events will find macro lenses a benefit. For digital shooters - don't forget your memory cards and battery recharges,

## BASICALLY:

- Camera body (a spare if you have one)
- Lenses from 20mm up to 300mm in prime and/or zoom combinations (don't forget lens shades)
- Other lenses 400 up to 600 mm for shooting wildlife ( depending on the workshop—ask me for specific details!)
- Tripod and ball head
- Shutter release or cable release, if you have one
- A backpack or a fanny pack will be very helpful.
- Filters: polarizer, neutral density filters, warming filters (not as mandatory for digital photography, but if you have them, do bring them along)
- Lens cleaning items – air blower, brush, etc
- Camera manual (just in case there are any technical questions with your equipment)
- Laptop (Digital users)
- Spare batteries
- A flashlight
- Proper clothing for the weather conditions; and it is never wrong to include gloves, hat for cold weather or hat for sun protection
- Sunscreen, drinking water and snacks for the car
- Alarm Clock

### **What time do we start, where do we meet, and when is it over?**

Events start on the evening prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> full day of shooting, with a social hour at a hotel of choice, close to where we will leave from every morning. We will outline itineraries and objectives for the workshop. Events should end around noon on Sunday. **We shoot sunrise every morning, weather permitting as well as sunset.**

### **What kind of topics will be covered?**

Topics include equipment use and maintenance, field techniques, composition and if possible critiques of your past or current work. These sessions take place when the light is least cooperative for good nature photography, depending on weather conditions. Weather conditions may cause us to vary from our preset itinerary but you can be assured that all pre-formulated topics will be covered and your work critiqued sometime during the workshop.

### **Is transportation provided?**

Each participant is responsible for their own transportation. Car-pooling during the event is encouraged both to minimize the number of vehicles at shooting locations and to get to know one another.

Transportation from your hotel or prior agreed upon location IS provided on the One on One, individual workshops

### **How do I handle lodging reservations?**

I will suggest hotels/motels close to a general area where will meet every am and try to meet to critique your work. You are free to stay at other locations as long as you are there (at the meeting location) every AM prior to departing for the first shooting location

Lodging is **not** included in the tuition.

### **Does it matter which medium I use - digital, print film, or slides?**

Today, most of our participants shoot digital, However, we encourage both digital and film. My objective is to teach and enhance skills necessary for good nature photography techniques and good composition.

### **How should I dress?**

I will send out emails or phone call you about a week before the workshop to let you know what the weather looks like.

However, come prepared for anything and bring an extra layer of warm clothes when working at higher altitudes or in cooler climates. Good boots, gloves and a hat are essential to stay dry and warm. If you have Internet access, check the weather forecast at [www.accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com) before you leave home.

### **Does weather ever alter events?**

Only if there is an element of danger.

### **What's the difference between a Workshop and a Tour? (IMPORTANT)!!!**

#### **PHOTO TOURS**

\* Locations are usually well known, and participants get the "icon" shots

\* Usually lots of time spent shooting with less one on one contact With leaders.

\* Leaders usually shoot a lot

\* Not much time to review work either via laptop or "critique" sessions either when the light is bad, or in the evenings.

\* Groups usually larger than the true "workshop" events.

\* Once the "tour" is over. That's it!

## **PHOTO WORKSHOPS (MY PREFERENCE)**

- \* Well know locations, "icon" shots as well as selected areas that may be extremely photographic as well known
- \* Usually lots of shooting time in the field with much one on one Instruction. Tours typically have a much greater 10 attendees to 1 instructor ratio that workshops.
- \* Leaders shot a bit, but usually as instruction for participants. For example, it is not uncommon to get to a location and work with participants to explain what the leader may do, think and act to make a pleasing image. We all have different ways of trying to obtain the same result. It doesn't mean my way is the best way, it means my way is the best for me, but by understanding what I do, in addition to other photographers, you should be able to find what works best for you.  
Also, I have found that participants like to see how the workshop leader shoots the same scene, thou maybe a bit different and perhaps pick up some ideas to use in future shoots. As an example, I just finished going through my images from my workshop in the Eastern Sierra last October (I do that workshop every October-this will be my 11th year there at that time). I shot a total of 75 frames in 4 days.  
The vast majority of that time is spent talking and doing my job as a leader with my participants. If I want to shoot for myself, I will come in a day early or stay a day later. I actually tell my participants, they are encouraged to "hang out" on those days and shoot with me if they want, but to understand, this is "my time".
- \* Depending on the conditions and the time of the year (some days are longer than others---shooting time that it!) the review and critique of work  
In a classroom setting can be limited. This is why I have developed what I call my "Classroom in the Field" Photography workshops. Though I always include some classroom and critique time, I am NOT going take an inordinate amount of field time in good light from sitting inside and talking about things when I can do the same thing in the field. We always make some time to do some critiques though as I have found over the years participants want to know what the leaders think of their work and how, if anything can be done to improve the participants results.
- \* I use a formula of 7-8 participants to one gets larger I bring in another extremely competent workshop assistant at my expense. However this has only happened about 3-4 times in the past few years. I enjoy the small group settings and find they really make the workshop fun and memorable for he participants.
- \* I received an image last week from one of my participants from a workshop from 2004. He had a question for me regarding the composition. This happens a lot and I encourage it. Though we all leave for home after the workshop, you can always send me note of call if you have something I can help out on. My office here in Oregon is filled with images from many of my past attendees. I encourage my participants to always stay in touch.

### **How much "hands-on" help will I get in the field?**

**This sometimes depends on you. If you need or want help, just ask.** As I or my assistant makes their rounds, you may be asked "How are you doing?" If you say "OK", we'll move along. If you say for example "What do you think, am I exposing this scene correctly? I (we) will do everything I can to answer your questions so you fully understand the answer. Sometimes, I (we) might ask to take a peek through your viewfinder. **I take my**

responsibility as your field instructor seriously and will give you as much, or as little, attention as you feel you need.

### How do I register for an event?

- Either email me for the appropriate forms or visit <http://www.jackgrahamphoto.com/photo-workshops>

### Deposit and Payment Information

- Please return your Deposit, Registration Form, and Assumption of Risk Document as soon as possible.
- A \$200.00 deposit is required for each I workshop
- Some workshops have limited space. First come first served.
- IF YOU FIND THAT YOU CAN NOT ATTEND, AFTER SENDING YOUR DEPOSIT: Deposits are not refundable; however credit for the entire amount of your deposit(s) is applicable for future workshops.
- Final deposits are due 1 month prior to workshop. Payment balance can be made at the workshop site.
- If you pay by check PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **JOHN GRAHAM**

- I also accept MasterCard and Visa



and



- Please email back to [jack@jackgrahamphoto.com](mailto:jack@jackgrahamphoto.com) or mail to: Jack Graham. 17159 SW Lynlly Way, Sherwood, Oregon USA 97140

### What's included in my tuition?

Each attendee will receive a set of workshop notes, post workshop compiled from the key points from all of our event leaders. Tuition also includes all lectures, fieldwork and critiques of your slides in our general sessions. Travel costs, film processing, lodging, entrance fees, and meals are not included.

**More REFERENCES are available on request... [Here are a few!!](#)**

From Stan & Bonnie Z,..... Wisconsin----- July 2011 (part of my post workshop questioner)

**Please give me your overall feedback**

**Can I use a quote for advertisement / my web site referral page with your first name only (no email address will be printed) ? YES  X  NO \_\_\_\_\_**

I really enjoyed the workshop, we had a great group of people and I'm hoping to keep in touch with them and maybe see them at another workshop.

Liked having an itinerary and that the workshop was structured, we always knew what was happening day to day, even though weather could change things a little. The locations that you chose for the shoots were great and easy to get to; it's obvious you know the area well. Also nice that we shot different things and you were open to suggestions about things we wanted to shoot while we were out. Critiques were definitely good and needed so we could improve our shots every day. Your opinions/knowledge of photography and enthusiasm are great, I looked forward to every day of the workshop.

I learned some new things, definitely improved my skills and know what I need to work on to make my images better, including knowing my equipment better.....think you may have mentioned that a few times on the workshop! Good suggestion, having only had this camera for a couple of months I know I need to do that!

I came back home excited to learn more and get out with my camera as much as I can! After seeing how many images I have I need to work on not taking as many shots as I do.....maybe someday :-).

From Lynn K, Buffalo, NY---please click on this link: [www.lakphoto.com](http://www.lakphoto.com)

**Oregon Coast---July 2011**

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Hi Jack,

I just wanted to let you know what a marvelous time I had on the Oregon workshop! We had a good group of folks, and I really enjoyed your style of instruction which made things quite fun. I have just started to process some images. I have some pretty nice scenic shots(at least for me LOL) and my Foxglove images are drop dead-yeah! Anyway I hope to join you on another workshop in the future. My mind is turning to venturing to Maine next summer or maybe the Palouse. Funny that I'm already planning for next summer! Have a great evening, Jack!

Therese

## One on One individual 2 day workshop Oregon Coast/ Columbia River Gorge July 2011

**From:** A... M...[mailto:am.....@cox.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 04, 2011 7:28 PM  
**To:** Jack Graham  
**Subject:** Re: coming workshop

Jack,

I arrived home a few hours ago. This time the flights were timely

I am tired after the grueling schedule, but so glad with the images that I got. It was very worth it. Your help and guidance was invaluable.. I hope to visit you again soon. Also, make some time to visit us in New Orleans and have fun.

Take care,  
AM

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South Western PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP 2011

**From:** Don Dennis [mailto:ddexxxx@xxxny.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 09, 2011 11:13 AM  
**To:** Jack Graham Photography  
**Subject:** SW Photo Workshop

Jack,

As I am sitting here post processing photos from the SW Photography Workshop I am reliving every incredible moment. I can remember taking almost every shot and the clean air (except for the dust storm) and sounds along with the sights of the environment that make this place so amazing. As beautiful as the photos are, if I may say so myself, they still can never quite capture the complete experience of being there.

Your instruction and personal guidance reinforced on an hourly basis every day while has made me a better photographer. Your driving personality made me work harder, do more, think more, and even shoot a little less and has resulted in some great shots. I am reminded of that trek around the sand dune with the 60 mph winds blowing the dust into my ears and nose and mouth, walking up and down in the sand to get that shot of Totem Pole with the rippled sand dune as an anchor.

Thank you for your mentoring. It is also nice to know that it does not end here. I will be sending you a link to some photos to critique as soon as I can pick the best of my work. I look for to continuing to learn as I received your constructive criticism.

I will be signing up for another of your Workshops soon and have already recommended them to a photographer from Canada while at Bryce. I would also like to get out to the Portland area to experience a few of the great photo opportunity you have there.

All the Best,  
Don D.

Jack



I appreciate that you take your teaching role seriously., I learned a lot. The workshop was an excellent leaning experience. Jack put a lot of energy into helping his students grow as photographers.10/25/2010

Mike L. , Fresno Calif. ( Eastern Sierra Workshop October 2010)

Hello my name is Greg D.,

I am an amateur photographer who has attended several Jack Graham photo workshops in the last three years. I developed an interest in photography as a young man working in my father's newspaper business (late '70). This became work and I lost interest after some years. In 2004 I purchased a digital camera and once again was very excited about shooting. However the digital transformation became confusing and frustrating. So there I was in my early 40's with a great digital camera, time and resources to pursue my passion. But I was very frustrated with the learning curve. What to do? After reading a few books and taking some online photo courses I begin to gain confidence in my abilities but I was not content. So I looked into photo workshops and came across a workshop scheduled to photograph in the Eastern Sierras. Jack Graham was leading this workshop; I had no idea who Jack Graham was. I looked at his photos on the Internet and liked the area he was offering the workshop in, so I signed up. There are a few times in life were you can look back and pin point a significant change of direction. Meeting Jack Graham and attending his workshop is one of those times for me. It all came together. My photography has grown into a fun and rewarding art form. Due mostly from attending "Jack Graham" workshops and his continued invest of time in the post workshop experience. I owe Jack a great deal; he enabled me to see the passion of photography and took the frustration out of getting there. I still have a lot to learn and I will be attending many more of Jack's photo outings. I highly recommend them.

Sincerely

Greg D

Ron S.

March 25, 2009

I had the privilege of attending two of Jack Graham's workshops in the last couple of years.

I had attended a few other workshops prior to attending Jack Graham's. His workshops are very well organized. Right from the initial inquiry to the completed workshop, he was always quick to help in any way he could. He sent me a list of items needed or recommended for any type of weather conditions I might expect to encounter. He also sent me a list of equipment that would be helpful to have on his workshop. He never pressured me to purchase any type of equipment, but said he would help me use the equipment I already had. A few attendees had minimal equipment, yet were able to still get great images with his help.

He kept me informed on expected weather conditions starting several weeks prior to the actual workshop. He also gave me the name of a weather data base (cleardarksky.com) he used at that time, to help me determine possible weather condition for any time of day & I still use it. The first workshop of his I attended was mostly in the rain. He provided everyone with huge GLAD type bags to cover the cameras while on the tripods in the rain. They were like 5 gal size bags.

His workshop would start as early as 6:30 am & continue until about 10:30 pm. We would start the day with everyone meeting at a predetermined location, discuss what the plans were for the day & head out to our first location. He was very flexible with the wishes of the group & he never pressured us to move on until we were ready.

The last workshop of his that I attended included an extra day where we could spend the day on an Amish farm. He had met & became friends with an Amish family in central Ohio. From that, he was able to get permission for us to spend the day on the farm photographing them & the farm, followed by them serving us a fabulous Amish dinner & even them singing to us following dinner. What an exciting & rare experience.

I could go on & on about how great his workshops are. Jack is a great instructor, fun to be around, & takes the time to work with anyone in getting great images. He never just took us to shooting locations & left us alone, but instead, worked with us to get the great images that were there for the taking. I fully intend on doing another one with him in the very near future.

Sincerely,

Ron Ss.

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**TO:** Whom it May Concern  
**FROM:** Marty , Chevy Chase, MD  
**DATE:** March 25, 2008  
**SUBJECT:** Recommendation for Jack Graham

In February 2008, I did a two-day private workshop with professional landscape photographer Jack Graham, who was a terrific instructor. Some key lessons that I learned in working with Jack included:

1. No matter how tired you are, it's worth getting up 20 minutes earlier and stumbling in the dark with a flashlight so that you are positioned and ready while it's still dark BEFORE the morning light show begins.
2. Under shooting conditions where the light is changing very rapidly, you are sometimes better off shooting on A, rather than M as I usually shoot, so that you can save a few seconds while still controlling DOF.
3. In a shot with a deep DOF, when using a small aperture, Jack taught me to focus 1/3 to 1/4 up from the bottom, rather than on the main subject, so that you take account of hyper focal distance and have the whole frame in focus, rather than a focus on just the main subject with a blurry foreground.
4. There is great value in working with a pro, who "sees" for a living -- Jack kept reminding me to see patterns and lines and to "work the patterns" in my photos, in addition to shooting "grand landscapes."

I learned a LOT working with Jack, and would highly recommend that you attend one of his workshops in the future

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

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I have attended several of Jack Graham's workshops. What a great experience. Jack made his workshops the most memorable and enjoyable workshops I have ever attended. Communication was great from the time I expressed interest in attending right to the end of the workshop. He sent me a list of items he suggested I bring as well as an agenda on what, where and approximate times we would be shooting in various locations. That was great.

We would meet early in the morning for some instructions, and then set out for a day of great shooting & instruction. In the evenings, we would get together to discuss what we did that day. He would also critique our images we shot during that day. What a great learning experience that was.

Jack also encouraged us to bring, to the workshop, a variety of our own images so he could review, critique & offer advice on how our images could be improved. This was very informative and helpful.

We had every kind of weather from heavy rain & cold temperatures to bright sunny skies. Jack even gave everyone large plastic bags to protect our cameras in the rain. Jack did not use the time out in the field to get pictures for himself, but instead made himself available for help in any way we needed as well as advice on how a scene might be shot & the importance of looking around and thinking about what, why and how we would shoot a particular scene instead of just planting our tripods and shooting away. He also offered many great hints such as using a small piece of chamois to wipe rain from lenses rather than just push it around with a lens cloth, the importance of DOF & how to make the best use of it. In all, I learned quite a bit from Jack on his workshops.

I hope to attend another of his workshops in the future. They're always great.

Sincerely,  
Mary  
Salem, Oregon  
July 26, 2007

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**From:** Ken R.  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 6, 2007 8:01 AM  
**To:** Jack Graham  
**Subject:** Letter of recommendation

To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of recommendation for Jack Graham as a Photo Workshop Instructor. I have taken a variety of workshops since returning to photography including two from Jack. What sets Jack apart from the other instructors I've had is his "Philosophy on Photography". Not only has Jack taught me the "How Tos" to create a great photograph, but also the "Why's". While continuing to take classes and workshops from other instructors, I have already booked this year's major workshop with Mr. Graham.

Best Regards,

Ken R.

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