



Adventure Photography Course 23rd – 25th February 2018

On this two-day skills-based course deep in the heart of the New Forest, in a small group you'll be taught by two professional photographers every aspect of adventure photography, from journalism, travel and outdoor sports to product and outdoor commercial photography.

The course is suitable for photographers of all ages and skill levels, although a basic understanding of your camera would really help you get the most out of the practical sessions. With a small group size of just 11 and led by two qualified and experienced professional adventure photographers you'll be able to get personal feedback on your work throughout the course.

You'll have a chance to get involved in loads of practical exercises using the camera in the field and also have an evening session to discuss the images taken by the group. The course will have three main themes - the photography, the planning, and the practical - which will be discussed through the weekend with a formal session on the Saturday morning.

1. The Photography

To take great photos you need to understand a few technical bits, once mastered this will improve your confidence by taking the fear out and putting the fun in! We will take you through the fundamentals of photography including:

- Camera anatomy - understand the settings and controls on your digital camera.
- Camera functions - how the different settings affect the photographs you take, including ISO, Exposure & Aperture, Image Quality.
- Composition – to understand how to find order in disorder, build structure and create dramatic adventure photographs.
- Light - to learn the basics of harnessing natural light or light sources to the best effect to create the image or shoot the activity that you want to capture.
- Post processing - to learn the basics of the lightroom for basic image editing and storage.

2. The Planning

There are many things you can't plan; the majority of great photos are a combination of luck and knowledge combined. To create these shots comes from the ability to predict, that can only come from research and a dash of luck! We'll help you:

- Tell your story – we will help develop your style and your story, we will shift you from taking a snap to thinking about what you want to create, whether it be a dramatic magazine shot, or a photograph that tells a story. We will help you look at the image you want to create through both a journalistic, documentary-style approach and a moment in time epic adventure shot.
- Take the right kit - from minimalist kit on those extreme expeditions where you travel need to light with a single lens and one body to a trip with various subject matters



where more kit will be needed. We will help you to plan what gear to take on your shoot, considering the merits of camera of choice from camera phone, bridge to DSLR. We will also look at batteries, memory cards and filters.

- Find the right bag – now that we have helped you decide which gadgets to take with you on your journey, we will take you through the best ways to care for and carry your precious kit.
- Determine the conditions – what local conditions do you need to be aware of, from weather, temperature, tides, sunsets, to local customs and laws, these need to be considered to get the most out of your photo adventure.

3. The Practical

Now that you understand your equipment and have planned what you want to see, capture and convey, nothing replaces being out in the field in the great outdoors. We'll cover:

- Navigation: using maps to ensure you can get access to the places you need to get to. We will help you use a map to consider the local terrain to help with your location planning and access.
- Observation - using your planning work to ensure you observe and capture the images that you desire.
- Adventure activities – we will have the opportunity to shoot an activity taking place on location in the field, most likely to be some mountain biking!
- Getting out there - most of all we want to equip you with the confidence and motivation to get out there, your adventure portfolio will only consist of amazing images if you get up, get outside, do something, and photograph it.

This is a very practical course designed to getting you photographing outdoors as much as possible so be prepared for some hiking in the woods and possibly along the coast too! If you've never come on an EC Adventure before, they're informal, friendly and great fun. We generally have singles, couples and small sets of friends coming along, from complete beginners to adventure professionals. Ages tend to range between mid 20s and mid 40s but anyone over 18 years old and young at heart is welcome. What we all share is a love for adventure!

ACCOMMODATION

We will be staying in our own private, cosy lodge in the grounds of Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre in the South-west area of the New Forest. Sleeping 14 people in twins and bunk bedrooms, it is surrounded by peaceful woodland and has a shared open plan lounge area where we can all sit together for the workshop sessions and share meals. With regards to bedding, each bed at the lodge comes with a mattress protector, a pillow and a duvet but **please bring your own sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers (or a sleeping bag if you prefer).**



KIT LIST

Our recommended kit list for hiking weekends is a good basis to help you know what to bring clothing-wise, which is available to download [HERE](#). As it will be February and you'll be outdoors most of the time it is a good idea to bring extra layers as well.

Please note as this is a photography course you'll also need to bring:

- Your own digital camera, lenses, filters, tripods, camera bag, memory cards, battery charger (and any other accessories)
- Snacks and flask (to carry a hot drink) for when you're out on practical field sessions.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 2 full days and an evening of technical adventure photography tuition with two professional adventure photographers.
- 2 nights' accommodation in a cosy lodge in the leafy grounds of the New Forest
- 2 x breakfast on Saturday and Sunday morning
- 1 x home-cooked dinner on Saturday night
- EC Host for the weekend

FOOD

No food is provided on Friday evening as people tend to arrive at different times and eat en-route. Breakfast will be provided on Saturday and Sunday mornings and we'll sit down together for a group dinner on Saturday evening. You'll need to bring a packed lunch with you for Saturday and Sunday, and there will be a fridge to store your food if you need to. **If you have not already told us about your dietary requirements, please let Alex know ASAP at alex@explorersconnect.com.**

ITINERARY

FRIDAY

You're welcome to arrive at the accommodation below any time from 7pm on the Friday. Your EC host Louise will be on hand ready to welcome you, show you around and get you settled into your room. **On Friday please let Louise know when you intend on arriving by text or phone her on 07787 504 076** – Louise will also be your main contact if you have any problems over the weekend.

Friday is all about getting to know each other and relaxing after your journey - there's no food included on Friday evening, but the hostel has its own kitchen so you can bring your own dinner or eat on the way. Your instructors Phil and Kevin will give you a quick briefing on the course plan before you head to bed.

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Address: Whitefield Lodge, Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre, Bransgore, Hampshire BH23 8ED

Please make sure you check a map before beginning your journey - if you are running late or have any problems please contact Louise as soon as you can.

Driving directions: Please use sat nav location **Braggers Lane**, or postcode **BH23 8ED**

Travelling from London, the North or East

From the southbound M3 motorway just before you get to Southampton, join the M27 and follow signs for the West and Bournemouth (the M27 eventually becomes the A31 dual carriageway). After approximately 15 miles, exit off the A31 left for Burley (signposted Burley and Services) and follow the signs into Burley (about 3 miles). In the centre of the village you will find a triangular junction - turn right (signposted Bransgore and Avon Tyrrell). After a couple of miles you will rise up a hill and come to a crossroads at Thorney Hill. Turn right (signposted for Avon Tyrrell). Go over the cattle grid, continue for 400m until you reach a fork in the road, Avon Tyrrell is signposted. Take the right fork which is our private drive. Please obey the speed limit and watch out for the speed ramps, at the end keep left and follow the drive up to Avon Tyrrell House at the end.

Travelling from the West of England

Coming from the West of England head for Ringwood via the A31 or A338, continue East past Ringwood up the main A31 dual carriageway for about 1 mile. As you get to the top of a hill there is the turning off left signposted to Burley and services. Continue to Burley and Avon Tyrrell as per the directions above.

Parking: If you follow the directions above you'll be able to park round the back of the main house, and then walk to Whitefield lodge.

Public Transport: If you are travelling by train the nearest stations are Brockenhurst (10 miles) New Milton (6 miles) or Hinton Admiral (5 miles). You will find a taxi rank at both Brockenhurst and New Milton but if you are travelling to Hinton Admiral you will need to book a taxi in advance to pick you up from the station. Fares are £10-£25 and taxis can be booked via the following companies:

Galleon Taxis - 01425 611111

Chritax - 01202 470000

Priory Cabs - 01202 474444

Lift Sharing: If you can offer or need a lift (or just want to say "hi" to fellow attendees), then you can do this on the event Facebook page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/828527693973635/>

Closer to the time if you have not found a lift share let us know where you will be coming from and we will give out your details to others in the group by email.

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SATURDAY

On Saturday morning you'll have a technical & planning session, then after lunch you'll head out for a photography field practical session, and in the evening after a home-cooked dinner you'll get a group session reviewing photographs of the day and reflecting on learnings.

SUNDAY

On Sunday morning you'll go straight out for another photography field practical session, this time you'll stay out all day practicing what you've learned. In the afternoon there will be a debrief and a chance to ask Phil and Kevin any final questions before heading home around 5pm.

Please note:

- If you do not have the right kit you may not be able to participate. We do have some equipment to lend out so contact us well in advance if you need anything.
- On arrival you will be asked to sign a medical declaration form and provide us with next of kin/emergency contact details. If you have a medical condition or injury that we should be aware of please let us know in advance. Please contact us asap if there is anything you think may affect your participation.

If you have questions about any aspect of the trip, please contact Alex (alex@explorersconnect.com).