



The Landscapes and Waterfalls of the Brecon Beacons

SUMMARY

Over 3 days we're able to accommodate a range of experience and previous knowledge but you should have some previous experience of photography and your primary interest will be a love of the landscape and a wish to interpret it through your photography.

This tour is suitable for those with some experience of photography who wants to improve their knowledge and skills. We will cover a range of photographic subjects and themes, developing your range of knowledge and skills and explore your own preferences.

This itinerary may be modified according to the specific capabilities and preferences of participants. You will need a fair level of fitness to complete the mountain and waterfall days but these elements of the trip can be amended in accordance with your capabilities. We may also make day-by-day changes to locations to allow for weather conditions or group preferences. The range and quality of teaching is not affected by any changes.



WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

There are many technically competent photographers who take acceptable pictures technical expert with all the equipment imaginable but who lacks knowledge of composition and other creative skills to capture effective images; likewise all of us from time to time have taken potentially great images let down by faults such as over-exposure, camera shake or poor focussing.

Whatever your existing level of knowledge and experience, the workshop offers expert tuition in both the technical and creative aspects of photography and enable you to create images you've always wanted. They offer learning in the latest techniques in digital photography, using photoshop at the end of the course to process and print your best images.

Finally, although our courses are essentially outdoor or 'landscape' based, any course participant needing advice on any other aspect or subject in photography need only ask and Nigel will do his best to help and if possible allow time for you to practise your preference or issue during the course.

Key skills which our courses cover include for example:

Technical skills:

- The camera settings and uses of lenses
- Taking control of your image through use of manual settings
- Use of filters and accessories and how they can enhance your photography
- Shooting in RAW and RAW processing

Creative understanding

- Guidelines to effective composition – from the basics to advanced.
- How to create dramatic landscapes
- Light and colour theory
- Photographing moving water and other creative uses of long exposure photography.

Digital camera and processing techniques:

- Photomerges – creating those great panorama's
- HDR – see how you can create that glowing castle in front of a setting sun.
- Cropping, adding contrast or colour / converting images to black & white
- Removing unwanted objects!

.....and of course whatever else you need to know!!



Talybont on Usk: Home of Creative Photography Wales and base for our trip

Landscapes and Waterfalls of the Brecon Beacons Itinerary

The following is the programme as currently scheduled; however please note the following:

- **Day 1** will include an introductory / theory session at the beginning and a feedback, review and post-processing session at the end (please see the attached Example Programme to see the approximate schedule for this.
- **Day 2** will be more flexible and usually includes more time on location
- **Day 3** will be a half day on location and will finish with an extended feedback, review and post-processing session for a 4pm finish

The following itinerary is a guide only and may be varied according to weather conditions

First Evening:

Meet up in the Star Inn in the centre of the village at 8pm for introductions and an opportunity for you to ask questions about the trip. If there needs to be a significant change to the schedule due to weather conditions an update will be provided during the evening.

Please note that I will need to collect participants and will therefore not be able to be there for the whole evening).

DAY 1 – HAY ON WYE AND THE BLACK MOUNTAINS

Meet for an introductory session at the Malthouse B&B at 9am. This will take about 90 minutes before we depart for locations.

The rest of the day is focussed in the Black Mountains on the Eastern side of the Brecon Beacons. The landscape is characterised by open moorland and upland scenery with peaks and ridges, and grazed and wooded lowland valleys and many historic features. The A40 Abergavenny to Brecon road runs through the Usk valley, following the route of the River Usk. The town of Abergavenny and village of Crickhowell are the largest settlements situated in the valley floor. The day includes a relatively easy and short walk up to Table Mountain to take in views over the Black Mountains and a trip to historic Hay on Wye and the Llanthony Valley and the historic monument of Llanthony Priory.

Specific aspects of photography covered:

- Review of understanding your camera and its settings
- Essential techniques in photography
- Composition in landscape photography
- Understanding light
- Tourism photography: creating a record of your trip

Locations visited:

- Crickhowell / Hay on Wye: the villages and historic features
- Sugar Loaf and Table Mountains and surrounding views and landscapes
- Llanthony Valley and Gospel Pass (the 2nd highest mountain pass in Wales!)
- Llanthony Priory

DAY 2 – WOODLANDS AND WATERFALLS: THE WATERFALLS AT YSTRADFELLTE

We explore the wooded valleys and waterfalls of the central Brecon Beacons. Two rivers come together in the Nedd and Fechan Valleys sitting right underneath the mountains and producing a dramatic series of cascades and waterfalls, including Sgwd yr Eira, which you are able to walk underneath. The path to the falls is steep and rocky in places and is a route totalling around 6 miles.

Specific aspects of photography covered:

- Photographing woodlands and moving water
- Understanding light and exposure
- Specific techniques in landscape photography

Locations visited:

- The waterfalls at Pontneddfechan and Ystradfellte
- Surrounding woodlands at above
- Penderyn Distillery (Optional - non-photographic visit)

DAY 3 – MOUNTAINS AND UPLANDS : PEN Y FAN AND THE CENTRAL BEACONS

We spend the day in the central Brecon Beacons, walking up to Pen y Fan, at 886m the highest Peak in the Brecon Beacons and the highest south of Snowdonia. The surrounding hills have fantastic panoramic views with great opportunities for photographic composition. Although the path is good, it involves an ascent of around 450 m and an hour walk from the start point. The day will also involve 2-3 hours spent at high level (800m approx.) so you will need to wrap up accordingly. Total travelling distance around 40 miles.

Specific aspects of photography covered:

- Composition in landscape photography
- Understanding light and exposure
- Specific techniques in landscape photography

Locations visited:

- Pen y Fan and the surrounding mountains

End of Day 3 – return to Talybont on Usk for review and Photoshop session for finish 4pm

For those travelling to Newport or with no same day flight to catch there will be the option of a final day photographic walk up a local mountain.

THE FIRST DAY IS STRUCTURED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Tutorial session looking at camera control and settings and compositional theory.
2. Practical session practising techniques (At locations as listed below – 4.5 hours approx. including lunch)
3. Review, Feedback and Photoshop Session (1.5 hours approx.)

Following days have more of an outdoor focus while retaining an element of Post-Processing and review

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – APPLIES TO ALL TRIPS

Additional Information:

- We visit a mix of locations. The paths to the mountain and waterfall locations are uneven and step in places. Please advise if you have any mobility limitations which we will need to take into account and if necessary provide alternative arrangements.
- Please bring your camera and any equipment you have (along with your camera manual if possible). Make sure that your battery is fully charged, you have a spare and you have at least two memory cards with a minimum of 16GB capacity.
- Please come prepared with appropriate footwear and outdoor clothing appropriate for all weather conditions.

Tour Price includes:

- Expert tuition and Guide Services with Nigel Forster
- Transfers from Abergavenny or Brecon for those travelling by bus or train.
- Transport to and between locations in Creative Photography Wales car.
- Photographic instruction and full course notes
- Admissions to all places named in itinerary
- Use of equipment if required

Tour Price excludes:

- Accommodation and meals
- Transport to the Brecon Beacons
- Insurance

Nigel Forster ABIPP - Your Tutor and Guide



Nigel is an Associate member of the British Institute of Professional Photography (www.bipp.com) with a wealth of experience of teaching both groups and individuals in photography and with an extensive knowledge of the Brecon Beacons. Nigel specialises in evocative landscape images and he has travelled in many parts of the world. He is therefore not only able to teach you the technical and creative skills of photography, he will also act as your guide and has a 'feel' for what visitors want to record and take back with them as a lasting memento of their trip.

There's no point in doing anything if you can't have fun doing it! Nigel will make your holiday as lighthearted and entertaining as possible; don't forget, courses always run even in 'challenging weather' so you will enjoy the course whatever the conditions!

FINALLY – If there's anything contained in the website information or on these Trip Notes you're not sure about or require further explanation, please contact us at any time and we're happy to help. Hope to see you soon!