

# John Deas Photography Workshops

## 2017 Great Smoky Mountain National Park Oct 12 - 15, 2017

Thank you for your interest in the October 2017 Great Smoky Mountain Workshop with John Deas Photography! I have spent many hours exploring and photographing The Smokies and am very familiar with the landscape, history, trails and other aspects of this beautiful National Park. I look forward to working with you to make great photographs in this unique and beautiful landscape.

**Tuition:** The workshop fee is \$525.

- Please make personal checks payable to John Deas Photography.
- Mail to: 405 Bob Penland Rd., Hayesville, NC 28904.
- To reserve your spot, please:
  - Pay by check in full or make a deposit of half the fee, \$262.50, by August 12, 2017. The remaining balance of \$262.50 should be received by September 12, 2017.
  - If you wish to pay by credit card, please email me at [johndeasphoto@gmail.com](mailto:johndeasphoto@gmail.com) and request an eInvoice from Square.

**Cancellation Policy:** The cancellation policy is simple:

- If participant cancels more than 60 days before the event start date, I will refund any monies already paid.
- A deposit of 1/2 the workshop fee is due by 60 days before the event start date so:
  - If participant cancels 60-31 days before the start date and has paid only the deposit, I will refund 1/2 the deposit amount.
  - If the full workshop fee has already been paid in that time frame, I will refund 75% of the full workshop fee.
- If participant cancels within 30 days of the start date, all amounts paid to that date will be forfeit. However, if participant reschedules for another workshop due to be held within the next 12 months, I will apply all but 20% of monies paid to the new workshop fee.

You will need to reserve your room at the Tally Ho Inn in Townsend, TN. Rooms for this workshop at a rate of \$103 for Thursday night and \$133 per night for Friday and Saturday nights.

Contact information is as follows:

- The website: <http://www.talleyhoinn.com/>.
- Phone number: 1-800-448-2465 or 865-448-2465
- Address: 8314 State Hwy 73, Townsend, TN 37882
- When you call to reserve your room, mention to them that you are with the John Deas Photography Workshop.

Following you will find important information regarding your session. Please take the time to read it carefully. I realize there is a lot of information, but I think you will find it helpful. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

## *Itinerary*

Several factors play a role in determining our plans during the workshop, so a firm itinerary is not provided. I will arrive the day before to scout the various areas we will visit to ensure that you will be photographing in the best locations available during the workshop.

We will meet at 6:00 pm Thursday evening in the lobby of the Tally Ho. We will have a meet and greet along with a short presentation that will cover some basic photography tips and safety issues. You are responsible for your own meals, so please plan accordingly. There is a restaurant next door to the Tally Ho, and there are a few others in the area.

Friday and Saturday, we will begin the day with a sunrise shoot. Sunrise is around 7:40 am, so we'll need to be on the road no later than 6:30 am. Since we'll be leaving so early, you should plan to bring or purchase breakfast items that can be eaten while on the road. Depending on conditions, we will shoot in one or two areas before breaking for lunch and resting up a bit. Lunch will be held at a local restaurant. Again, you are responsible for your own meals, so please plan accordingly. In the early afternoon and depending on conditions, we will either depart again for more photography; or we may spend some time in a classroom setting. We'll end the day with shooting until after sunset.

Sunday, we will begin the day with another sunrise shoot and spend some of the rest of the morning visiting additional locations. Plan on bringing along snacks or breakfast items that can be eaten while on the road. We will plan to be back at the hotel in plenty of time to clear your room and checkout by the hotel's 11 checkout time.

## *During the Session*

The majority of the time will be spent in the field capturing images of spectacular scenery. We won't be walking or hiking long distances, but some of the locations will require walking/hiking on trails and sometimes off-trail. We will be walking/hiking on uneven, wet and slick surfaces, so please bring appropriate footwear, preferably boots with ankle support and good grip on the bottoms.

You may also want to bring waterproof shoes or boots in case you want to venture out into the water a bit to get different vantage points. Some people have used water sandals/shoes in the past, while some used waterproof boots. Since we'll be spending a good deal of time around water or in the event we get caught out in the rain, I recommend that you bring a change of clothes and extra shoes along with you. A hand towel or bath towel in your vehicle can be a very welcome item to have if needed.

Restrooms are limited to a few locations throughout the day, namely at the restaurants we visit for lunch and the occasional location in the park that has a restroom. If possible, please plan accordingly! In case of an emergency, the woods are always close at hand and I will have toilet tissue and hand cleaner in the vehicle if needed.

## *Weather Conditions*

The weather this time of the year is generally pleasant and cool with average highs in the 50-60s, but the mornings and evenings could be a bit chillier, so please bring a warm jacket. We have been here when it snowed the first weekend in November.

There is also a chance of rain at any time in this region, so be prepared by bringing adequate clothing. We will continue to shoot in a light rain, but we will play it safe if there is a period of torrential rain or thunderstorms.

### ***Clothing/etc.***

This workshop will be primarily in the field and will proceed except in the case of severe weather conditions such as heavy rain, thunderstorms or other conditions that might prohibit us from being outdoors. Be prepared to dress in layers so that you can add or subtract clothing based on conditions. I recommend that you avoid cotton apparel and instead bring quick-drying technical apparel if at all possible.

Following is a recommended clothing list (include extras of each):

- Sturdy hiking shoes or boots
- Comfortable and warm socks
- Gloves
- Hat and/or other headgear for warmth and/or sun protection
- Warm jacket.
- Rain gear, such as rain jacket and rain pants
- Water shoes or sandals

### ***Suggested Photo Equipment***

- **Camera**

I am most familiar with Sony, so if you are using a different brand, be sure to bring your owner's manual with you in case we need to consult it for any issues that arise. You should become familiar with using your camera in Aperture Priority and/or Manual mode and know how to quickly adjust your ISO, f-stop and shutter speeds. If you have a backup camera, please bring it. Even a point and shoot would be a good backup in the event of a primary camera body failure

- **Lenses**

Ideally, I recommend that you bring lenses ranging from 16mm to about 200-300 mm. For night photography a fast, wide angle lens is optimum – something like a 16 – 35 f2.8.

- **Tripod**

A sturdy tripod is a must, it is practically impossible to capture quality images of waterfalls, moving water in rivers or streams, or sunrises/sunsets without one. Make sure you are familiar with your tripod, you know how to use it, and it is in good working condition.

- **Filters**

The most important filter for this workshop will be a Circular Polarizer filter (CP). It is extremely valuable as it enables you to reduce the glare on the wet rocks and the foliage, saturate the colors and obtain nice blue skies. If you don't already have a thin mount CP filter, I'd suggest purchasing one as it will keep you from encountering vignetting if you have to stack it on another filter.

Another helpful filter is the Neutral Density (ND) filter. It is a must when longer exposures are needed. Be sure your ND filters have outer threads and can accept your CP filter. I encourage everyone to not think of the ND filter and the CP filters as an either/or situation. The CP filter is a must when photographing water, the ND filter is to be considered as an accompaniment, used only when you need a longer exposure.

Another valuable filter to have in your arsenal, especially for sunrise/sunset images, is a Graduated Neutral Density filter (GND). The GND is a square filter and one half is clear, while the other half is dark – various density gradients are available, I use a 3 stop. The GND helps to darken skies and other bright areas of the image. By having only a portion of neutral density on the filter, you can selectively darken areas of an image while allowing the portion of the image within the clear section to receive the normal amount of exposure. Neutral density filters do not affect the coloration of the image, and I typically only use mine during extreme light ranges. This filter is not a must for the workshop, and I'll have mine along for you to experiment with, so please don't feel like you need to purchase one specifically for the workshop.

A lot of folks are trying their hand with a Variable Neutral Density (VND), myself included. I find them useful in certain situations, but when photographing waterfalls I find them somewhat cumbersome to use with the added CP filter. There may be an occasion where you might want to use this filter if you already own one, so by all means feel free to bring it as well.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding filters.

- **Miscellaneous Equipment**

A cable release or remote is convenient in that it helps prevent the introduction of any vibration to your camera when tripping the shutter.

Please have at least one set of spare batteries. Batteries will discharge rapidly in cold weather. Keep the extra in an inside pocket for warmth, then switch out that one when the original weakens. I'll have a power inverter in the vehicle that we can use to charge batteries if needed, but it is best to have fully charged backups at all times.

We will have limited opportunities to download images while on the road, so make sure you have plenty of storage to last you the whole day.

***Health Form: Medical Information/Emergency Contact Number - REQUIRED***

In the PDF Gallery, there is a Health Form that you MUST download and complete for this workshop. It must be sent in with your final payment. The form asks for any medical conditions that I may need to inform medical personnel of in the unfortunate case of a medical emergency. It also asks for an emergency contact name and number of someone who I would need to contact in an emergency. This information will be held in the strictest confidence. I will keep it in my vehicle until the end of the session, at which time, I will give it back to you. Please note that the nearest hospital is nearly an hour away.

***Waiver Form - REQUIRED***

Also in the PDF Gallery on the website (on the Resources tab) is a Waiver Form. This, too, must be downloaded, signed, and returned with your payment. My apologies, but in this current litigious environment, we all need to be covered. My attorney has tried to keep the language of this document as simple as possible, but if you have any questions about it, please let me know. You will not be allowed to participate in the workshop without this signed form. I have also included a "model release" on that form, asking for your permission to use any images of you taken during the workshop for marketing purposes.

I hope you've found this information useful. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Again, I am looking forward to meeting you and working with you!

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