



Bob Brind-Surch Natures Photos



Natures Photos

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Taking control of your digital SLR camera

Have you just bought a new digital SLR camera and are not sure how to use it?

Do you rely on the automatic modes built into the camera?

Do you want to achieve better results from your photographic efforts but are confused by how all those camera settings work?

Do you want to take control of your camera but are not sure where to start?

If so, then this workshop is just for you!

With a healthy mixture of classroom and practical sessions my aim is to provide a relaxing and comfortable setting where you can learn more about your camera and practise your new knowledge by taking some stunning photos. You will learn how to control aperture, shutter speed and ISO to produce more creative images.

The workshop is based at Icarus Falconry, a private falconry centre where I also run my very popular specialist raptor photo days.

Having worked with and run workshops at the centre for many years I have excellent working arrangements with the falconers and know them and their birds very well. Unlike most similar centres these birds are trained and actively used for hunting so are in excellent condition, very keen and fit making them excellent subjects for you to practise your new found skills.

I am a retired teacher and professional wildlife photographer with 40 years' experience. I regularly run practical wildlife photography workshops and African safaris, tutor groups and individuals on how to improve their photography and give talks to camera clubs and other interested groups. Over the years I have had the good fortune to work with some wonderful photographers and as an experienced and enthusiastic teacher now enjoy teaching others as they experiment with and learn new techniques in wildlife and general photography.



"I read a comment from someone on your website saying "if you had been my teacher when at school I would have learnt so much more" I can only agree. It's so refreshing to see someone so prepared to share their skill and knowledge and in such a clear and effective way."

James Trent

"Hi Bob, We both thoroughly enjoyed an excellent day, thank you. The group was friendly and a really good size, and your instruction was excellent! We had a great level of tuition throughout the day, good friendly approach and I felt that I could ask dumb questions too! We got much closer to the animals than I ever imagined we would, all in all a great experience! I haven't sorted my images yet, but I know I'll have plenty of things to learn and think about, whatever the results! I have come away inspired and even more determined! We had a wonderful day thank you."

Jon and Pam Cruise

Modern cameras have powerful in built computers which can greatly assist you when taking photos. It is very tempting to set your camera on automatic and allow these computers to do all the work. They will calculate the exposure, sort out focus and all the other settings for you. If you want more you can always resort to the so called “creative modes” to manage more difficult situations. Does this sound familiar? If so this workshop is definitely for you.



This is often where the frustration begins. We buy expensive cameras with the hope of taking better images but all too often they simply aren't as you want or expect. I often receive comments about 'how nice my camera is' and how 'it must take good pictures'. The camera is merely a tool we use to create photos. Like any tool it needs your input to make it effective. Setting your camera to auto is similar to a carpenter setting up his power saw to cut a piece of timber then leaving it to perform the task on its own. The power saw is an excellent tool but it doesn't know what the carpenter is trying to achieve however with his skilled guidance it can produce a better result than perhaps an older hand saw might.

With all this computing power in the camera for which you have just paid so much do you ever wonder why some of your photos look too dark and some too light, do you wonder why some are blurred but some taken few frames later are not? My aim for this workshop is to teach you that allowing your cameras computer to make decisions for you isn't always the best option. I want to put you back in control and importantly reassure you that it isn't nearly as difficult as you might think.

Your camera can't possibly know what you want to achieve but can only make decisions based on how it was programmed and those are not necessarily the best decisions for the images you want to create. Making better photographs is about taking control of your camera and using the power of these amazing inbuilt computers to support not control the images you want to take.



Modern digital SLR cameras have tools and capabilities far exceeding those in even the most advanced cameras of yesterday. However the basic concepts haven't changed much since I picked up my very first camera over 40 year ago. What has changed is the computing power built into our cameras which can assist and guide us in our decisions making process. Anyone can take absolutely superb photos but the first step is leaving the auto mode settings on your camera behind and learning how even the basic controls, together with the inbuilt computer can make for a very different photograph.

This is a full day workshop, starting at 10 and running to 4, with a break in the middle for a lunch (not provided). It is different to most of my other workshops in that it has a formal classroom element. These sessions are delivered in the classroom at Icarus Falconry and the practical sessions working with their birds in natural conditions (weather permitting) in the fields around the centre.

Tea and coffee and biscuits are available all day but please a packed lunch.

Photography level and equipment

This workshop doesn't require any specialist cameras or equipment just a digital SLR camera and a real thirst to learn more.

It would help if you bought more than one fully charged camera battery and a couple of memory cards as you are bound to shoot more photos than you expect. It would also help if you bring your camera manual so that I can point out sections you might want to refer back to after the event. You might also want to bring a laptop computer if you have one to view your pictures. I will have one available but if you have your own it will save you sharing.

If you have some form of camera support such as a basic tripod this may also prove useful but is not at all essential.



Fitness level and clothing required

Whilst we won't be walking very far from the centre we will be in open farmland and the ground may be wet and rough underfoot. You would thus be advised to bring some reasonably strong walking shoes for the practical part of the workshop. It is regrettable that this workshop is not suitable for wheel chair users. If you have any particular requirements please do contact me first at bob@naturesphotos.co.uk.

We will hope for a fine reasonably warm day but for the outdoor sessions please wear suitable warm waterproof clothing preferably with plenty of layers so you can remain comfortable if conditions should change. You will need cooler clothes for indoors of course.

You might want to experiment with different camera angles which could be achieved by sitting or kneeling on the ground so please be prepared to get a little dirty!

Bob Brind-Surch

All dates, availability and costs are advertised on my website, www.naturesphotos.co.uk.

Other dates may be available if groups wanted to book them. Please contact me for further information.

To book places please visit my website and complete an online booking form or contact me direct, details below.

Telephone 01327 352505 or Mobile 07983 427202 (preferred) or email info@naturesphotos.co.uk.



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