



Bob Brind-Surch Natures Photos



Natures Photos

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Carnivorous plant Specialist 1-1 Macro Workshop

This is a unique workshop offered nowhere else. It is aimed at the keen photographer who wants to learn how to perfect their macro photography whilst capturing photographs of something very different.

Insectivorous or carnivorous plants are fascinating subjects to photograph and to really appreciate and capture an image of these small delicate plants you have to get very close. They are ideal subjects for macro work. I never have more than three and usually just 2 people per workshop so you will receive as much personal support and assistance as you require.

These are plants that lure insects into death traps then gorge on their flesh. Is that any way for a plant to behave? It is this macabre aspect of their lives that attracts people to them in the first place. They are in fact specially adapted plants which derive some or most of their nutrients from trapping and consuming animals, typically small insects and other bugs. They grow in places where the soil is thin or poor in nutrients, especially nitrogen, such as acidic bogs and rock outcroppings.

Their "trapping" mechanisms are very varied as are the approaches they use to attract food. Some are active i.e. they move to catch and ensnare prey but most are passive. The most well-known is probably the Venus Fly Trap which is definitely an active species trapping its prey behind "bars". Others such as the Pitcher Plant rely on insects falling into a pitcher shaped growth and still others use sticky leaves or tentacles to trap their prey.

To really appreciate these small delicate plants you have to get very close and thus they are ideal subjects for macro work.

I have nearly 40 years of experience of macro photography and regularly give talks on the subject to camera clubs and other interested groups. I have teamed up with Andy Wilkinson, owner of Triffid Nurseries and one of the country's premier growers and breeders of these fascinating plants. Triffid nurseries has the largest range of carnivorous plants available in the UK and offers the world's widest selection of carnivorous plants and seeds for sale on the web. With Andy's help I am now able to offer the unique opportunity of unrestricted access to photograph a very wide range of superb specimens.





Andy's plants are housed in a huge Kader Growhouse covering over 3,700 square feet. He is a passionate and obsessive collector of carnivorous plants with well over 20 years' experience. He is thus able to provide unique background information to help the photographer understand the plants, their unique adaptations and the conditions in which they grow.

A photographic day starts with a short tour of the nursery and an introduction to the plants and their unique life styles given by Andy. As with all natural

history subjects an understanding of the subject, how the plants grow, what they require and how they catch or ensnare their prey helps when you come to photograph them.

I will then provide a brief introduction to the techniques and equipment required to photograph these highly unusual subjects pitching my presentation to suit your experience. My aim on this workshop is to provide you with as much 1-1 support and assistance as you require helping you develop further your macro skills. I will bring some specialist macro equipment to the workshop and be available all day to assist by explaining relevant techniques, camera settings etc. to help you to take the best macro photographs. This will include the very specific macro shooting requirements to help improve your success rate.



As the numbers on this workshop are so small you will have plenty of opportunities to capture ultra-close up photographs of individual plants which

can be removed to a suitable location where it is easier to light them and position your camera appropriately. I will bring some additional lighting equipment which will assist you but if you have an electronic flash please bring that too. This being a greenhouse the lighting (weather permitting) is excellent but with this level of macro it is always helpful to be able to augment the natural lighting. There is limited power available in the building for recharging batteries and laptops. The latter might be useful for those who want to view their images or to attempt advanced techniques such as "tethered" shooting or "focus stacking".

I will assist those who wish to try complex techniques such as these but please contact me beforehand and I will give advice regarding the equipment and software required.

Successful macro photography does require some more specialist equipment but excellent macro images can be captured without investing in the more expensive lenses and cameras. You will however need to bring either a dedicated macro lens, extension tubes or close up lens attachments. If you require any advice please enquire on booking. If you haven't the required





lens or want to try using a very specialist piece of equipment I have an arrangement with a lens hire firm who can provide certain equipment on very cost effective hire for the day.

A tripod is really necessary especially for the ultra-close up shots where a steady camera support is required. We won't be walking far from the car so you safely can leave any equipment there if it is not required.

The workshop will last about 4 hours with an additional period for lunch. You can bring a picnic lunch which can be taken on the grass outside the greenhouse (weather permitting) or we can adjourn to a local pub as required.

As the facility is indoors it will not be effected by bad weather other than that the natural light levels will be reduced and there will be more need to rely on flash. The plants are only at their best for few months per year and as this is a working nursery the number of photographic days I can offer per year are very limited.

This is an intensive workshop so bring plenty of memory cards and batteries and expect to take home lots of great images.



The number of guests on each workshop has to be limited so that I can provide all those attending as much 1-1 support as required and the opportunity to take some superb and unusual photographs.

This being a working nursery there will also be an opportunity to purchase any of the plants if you wish.

I will provide detailed maps for those booking on this workshop but the address is for those wishing to check out distances to travel beforehand. If travelling long distances then I can arrange a local B&B in a superb village pub. Please enquire if interested.

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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