



Tour and Workshop Frequently Asked Questions

Experience and Equipment

What level of photography experience do I have to have in order to attend one of your workshops?

Carl's tours and workshops are designed to help you improve your photography through specific skills exercises, and those exercises are designed to work with any camera. We do ask that you are familiar with your camera and with its different functions, as Carl cannot be an expert in every camera's particular functioning. If you are not, we ask you spend some time reading the manual and getting familiar with all the controls, and make sure to bring that manual with you. The most important functions are: histogram display on digital cameras, mirror lockup or timer, over and under exposure adjustment, f-stop adjustment, and exposure mode. The more comfortable you are with your camera the more you will benefit from the tour or workshop.

What if my camera doesn't have some of these controls?

Do not worry about that. You can still do most of the exercises without these controls. However, if you have been considering upgrading to a different camera, this is a good time to do so. Just make sure to spend some time with that new camera before bringing it to the tour or workshop!

What kind of camera do I need for the tour or workshop?

Any camera format, type, built, origin and quality is going to work for you at this tour or workshop, so long as it allows you to have full control over the exposure settings and allows you to change lenses. You can take great photos with a 40-year-old camera or a 4-day-old one.

Which lenses should I bring

We recommend you bring a lens from each lens family: Wide angle, Normal and Telephoto (up to 200mm), even for the aurora tours and workshops. Landscapes offer a variety of opportunities for composition, and sometimes you can't get all that you want without running the full gammut. However, for any wildlife tour or workshop, you may want to bring up to at least a 500mm telephoto.

Will Carl photograph during the workshop?

Carl does not use his tours and workshops as an opportunity for him to build his stock library. However, Carl does not travel without his camera. So, if he sees something that is worth capturing, Carl will likely set up and capture it. But, in doing so, he will also take a moment to teach on his vision and how this particular image will be captured to accomplish that vision.

Participants

Can my spouse, friend, or significant other attend the workshop or tour for free?

Yes. You are welcome to bring a spouse, friend or significant other to the tour or workshop

location with you, but they will pay a Companion Fee that covers costs associated with travel, lodging and meals that are inclusive in the tour or workshop. The amount of the fee will vary on the tour or workshop. They can do so by completing a Companion Registration Form.

Why cannot my spouse, friend or significant other attend a workshop for free? They won't take photos, won't ask questions and I am willing to sign a release form if they get hurt since I understand they wouldn't be covered under your workshop insurance policy.

They must attend as registered "Companions" unless they have paid the full fee because our workshops are professional photography excursions designed to improve your photography. They cannot attend for free because lodging, transportation and food costs are based on the number of people utilizing those services. If they attend on a Companion Registration, they may not participate in any workshop activities. In our view opening workshop activities to companion registrants will reduce the focus of the workshop and the level of commitment we ask from each participant.

How many participants will attend the tour or workshop?

Tours are set on an individual basis, and will generally include 6-10 participants unless the person booking the tour desires otherwise. Workshops are going to generally be limited to 12 participants, not including companions, unless otherwise stated in the workshop description. The fact we limit the number of participants is another reason why we cannot let someone attend for free. If someone attends for free they will prevent a photographer from attending. Transfer participants are occasionally added to a workshop.

Travel and Lodging Logistics

Do I have to rent a car?

Not necessarily. For workshops, you are responsible to get yourself to a designated gathering location if it is a remote workshop where travel from Anchorage to the workshop location is included. In most cases, you can simply take a taxi to do this. In rare instances will there be a workshop where you will drive yourself to the daily workshop locations, as most of our workshops are all-inclusive and at remote locations. For these instances, you are entirely responsible for your own transportation and may wish to rent a car. This detail will be spelled out in the workshop description. For tours, all travel related to the tour is provided from your hotel or wherever you are staying.

If I have to rent a car, do I need an SUV?

Not unless you want to. Any of our workshops that are not in remote locations do not require driving on high-clearance roads or off-road unless otherwise indicated. A passenger car is perfectly suitable for these workshops. However, some rental car agencies in Alaska will restrict what roads you may drive on. Most prohibit driving on the Dalton Highway, Denali Highway, McCarthy Road, and Hatcher Pass road, to name a few areas. You will need to rent from a car rental company that does not have such restrictions if your workshop is located in any of those areas.

Do I have to make my own lodging accommodations?

You may have to make your own arrangements for any lodging that precedes or follows the workshop. Some tours or workshops may include lodging the night before the tour in the fee – make sure to check the description. A list of hotel and motels together with contact information will be emailed to you when we receive your registration. Lodging at our B&B, the Mountainside B&B,

will be available for a reduced fee on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, for remote workshops that include lodging, that aspect of the workshop will be taken care of.

Why do I have to rent my own car and make my own hotel reservations?

Because making car and hotel reservations yourself saves you a huge amount of money. If we always rent vehicles and make hotel reservations for you we must charge a mark up to you for this service because it takes us time to make reservations and it takes us time to pick you up from the airport, help you check into your hotel and so on. In effect we would end up charging you more than double the hotel and car rental rates that you will pay by renting your own car and making your own hotel reservations. We prefer to have you pay us for what we do best: teach you how to take great photographs.

Will the tour or workshop participants stay in a specific hotel?

Everyone is free to stay where they want. We do not have any preference or relationship with any specific hotel chain. Again, there may be some exceptions to this as spelled out in the individual workshop or tour description.

What is the closest airport to fly in?

It depends on where the specific workshop you are attending is located. For our Alaska tours and workshops, it will be either the Ted Stevens International Airport in Anchorage or the Fairbanks International Airport. Either call or email and we will provide you with this information. It may also be indicated on the workshop description. For our workshops outside of Alaska, this information will be provided to you when you receive your registration email.

Signing Up for the Workshop/Tour

Will I be asked to share my email address as part of an email list for a workshop or tour?

We respect your privacy and for this reason we do not require that you share your email address. Any and all information you provide us with will remain confidential. An email list for the tour or workshop attendees can be provided with the consensus of all participants.

When will I hear from you after I sign up?

After we receive your registration three things will happen:

1- You will be emailed a list of accommodations for your tour or workshop immediately after you register.

2- A receipt will be mailed to you the day after you register.

3- Approximately 1 to 2 weeks before the workshop you will receive an email from us with complete information about all aspects of the tour or workshop. This email will include information on what to bring, what weather to expect, the time and place we will meet on the first day of the tour or workshop, a reading list, and much more.

Why should I sign up for the tour or workshop now?

Because of the following reasons, in no particular order:

- 1- Because attending one of our tours or workshops will help you improve your photography skills faster than you ever thought possible.
- 2- Because you will make new friends who love photography as much as you do
- 3- Because you will get answers to questions that have been bothering you for a long time
- 4- Because you do not want to “re-invent the wheel” and learn all the aspects of photography on your own.
- 5- Because you want to see first-hand, and for yourself, how a pro does it.
- 6- Because you want to meet Carl and work with him in person
- 7- Because Carl will not offer certain workshops forever
- 8- Because you love photography and this is a unique opportunity to share your passion with people who are as passionate about landscape photography as you are
- 9- Because there is no better time to sign up than right now! This is not only about Carpe Diem (seize the day) it is also about Carpe Photo (seize the photograph).
- 10- Because you will have your photographs reviewed during the workshop
- 11- Because the cost of this workshop may be higher the next time it is offered
- 12- Because who else knows these locations better than Carl? If you want to visit these places with someone who really knows them this is it.
- 13- Because Carl teaches workshops where he has lived for the past 14 years and where he lives today. He also teaches workshops where he has had intensive field experience as an Artist-in-Residence. Carl takes you in his backyard so to speak, and has made many friends in the places he goes to visit.
- 14- Because if you wait any longer the workshop will be full
- 15- Because you will learn, have fun and relax. Not only that but you will also return with photographs that will impress not only yourself but also your friends, your relatives, and everyone else you show your work too. You will be the source of envy!

Need additional information?

Not a problem. Simply email us at carl@carljohnsonphoto.com or call us at (907) 748-7040. We will answer your questions by email or over the phone and help you with any subject concerning our tours or workshops. We look forward to hearing from you.