

Welcome



Intro to Portrait Photography

G26050101

with Nazara Matos

May 3-9, 2026

Dear Participant,

I am truly looking forward to welcoming you to Ghost Ranch for this upcoming five-day Intro to Portrait Photography Workshop. It will be a privilege to spend this time with you, surrounded by the beauty and quiet inspiration of the New Mexico landscape, as we focus on one of the most powerful forms of photography: the portrait.

Throughout the week, I will guide you through the essential skills and thoughtful practices that form the foundation of portrait photography. Together, we will explore how to see light, how to establish trust with a subject, and how to create images that go beyond the surface to reveal something more intimate and authentic.

What You Will Learn

This workshop will offer you hands-on experience in:

- Using natural light to shape and enhance emotion in your portraits
- Posing and directing with sensitivity and respect
- Composing images with intention and clarity
- Beginning the editing process with a light, storytelling touch
- Developing your personal perspective and photographic voice

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While we will certainly cover technical elements, my focus will also be on helping you build connection—with your subject, your environment, and your creative instincts.

What You Should Bring:

- A camera (DSLR, mirrorless, or smartphone with strong manual capabilities)
- Preferred portrait lenses are 24-100 Zoom, fixed 50mm or 85mm.
- Smartphones will also work for this class.
- Thumb drive.
- Laptop with editing software is ideal, but not a requirement.
- Extra batteries, memory cards, and a tripod if you have one
- Any lighting gear you might have
- Comfortable clothing and walking shoes for outdoor sessions
- A notebook or journal for notes, ideas, and reflections
- A sense of curiosity and a willingness to experiment

My Intentions for You

It is my hope that this workshop will give you both the tools and the confidence to begin (or continue) your journey into portrait photography with greater clarity and purpose. I will provide feedback, answer questions, and create space for

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meaningful dialogue around both the technical and emotional aspects of your work. By the end of our time together, you will not only have created a collection of portraits in a stunning setting—you will also have taken meaningful steps toward seeing people, light, and yourself through a new lens.

I look forward to meeting you and sharing this creative experience. Should you have any questions leading up to this workshop feel free to reach out via my contact info below.

Warmly,

Nazara Matos

Workshop Instructor -Intro to Portrait Photography

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Workshop Itinerary:

Session #1 Sunrise photoshoot (6:30-7:30 AM)

Start each day with a sunrise “blue hour” photoshoot. Participants will work in rotating pairs for each photoshoot, with one person acting as the model and the other the photographer, using skills and techniques from previous days. Instructor will provide real time coaching during the photoshoot. Each day will have a theme: Posing, Framing, Light and Shadow, Perspective, Depth of field. A model that is not a workshop participant will be provided for at least 1 photoshoot during the week.

Breakfast (7:30-8:30)

Session #2: Technique and coaching (9:00-10:30 AM)

Meet in the workshop space to discuss the morning photoshoot. Share successes and challenges. Discuss theme for the day. View sample images that are on theme. Participants will bring their cameras to each daily workshop for impromptu demo photoshoots.

Free time (10:30AM-12:00PM)

Lunch (12:00-1:00)

Session #3: Image review and feedback (1:00-2:30 PM)

Before lunch each day participants will send the instructor 5 images from the previous day & photoshoots, these images will be used during this time to re-

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view and provide feedback. We will use this time to discuss technique, themes, areas for improvement, and what works well.

Free time (2:30-5:30 PM)

Optional group hikes and field trips off Ghost Ranch grounds

Dinner (5:30-6:30 PM)

Session #4: Sunset photoshoot (6:30-7:45 PM)

End each day with a sunset “golden hour” photoshoot. Work in rotating pairs with one person acting as the model and the other as the photographer staying on theme for the day while testing skills in the changing evening light.