



Advanced Photography

G26050105

with David Rider

May 3-9, 2025

Welcome to Advanced Photography!

Here are some notes to help you prepare for our time together.

After dinner on your arrival day, we will gather for introductions and review of our daily flow. If you arrive early, explore the campus to scout photo locations. As our course description explains in detail, we will harness the rapidly changing light of dawn and dusk for photo shoots. You can photograph workshop peer portraits, landscape, macro or fine-arts on a given day.

We have the spectacular backdrop of Ghost Ranch in which to create our images. Our challenge will be finding the balance of people images, landscape, macro and fine-arts to tell a compelling story. You might select a majestic panorama from the trails or a more intimate context for your subject.

During dawn and dusk photoshoots, feel free to stay with the group or strike out on your own. If you stay with the group, I will do a brief demo on varied topics, followed by Q&A with informal instruction as you photograph each other or surrounding spaces. I will alternate working near the main campus with venturing out.

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Participants with mobility issues as well as rigorous hikers can participate fully and choose where to work. Either way, [study this map](#) with special attention to Chimney Rock and Box Canyon as challenging sites with awesome views. Also note that our 2:00-5:30 PM free time allows more time for hiking and photography.

When the sun intensifies after breakfast, we'll go indoors for discussion and image review. Each day, we'll share 5 new images for peer review, to strengthen our skills, and to see how our workshop peers approach a comparable opportunity. Shortly before the workshop begins, I will provide a link by which you will upload photos each day. For Day 1, bring five recent digital images with you; afterward, your images will come from the prior day at Ghost Ranch.

For gear and equipment:

- Any digital camera--DSLR, mirrorless or cell phone--is fine (remember your battery charger);
- Bring a laptop or other means to view your work and upload daily images to your dedicated folder;
- Dress for cooler dawn/dusk and warmer midday;
- Bring hiking boots for comfort and safety on trails;
- Respect the intense sun with a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen;
- Bring a headlamp if you will hike before dawn or after dusk;
- Optional gear: hiking poles, camera tripod, camera filters or small portrait lights.

I look forward to meeting you in person. Any questions, please contact me at david.rider1207@gmail.com or 917-288-0187.



You can see my work at: davidrider.photoshelter.com.

--David

Workshop Itinerary: Structure for a Typical Day

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

We begin just before sunrise to capture the pre-dawn blue hour, sunrise and golden hour. You can join a workshop group or strike out on your own to hike a trail in search of images. One morning, we will photograph Ghost Ranch wranglers on their horses.

Breakfast (7:30-8:30 AM)

Session #2: Technique and coaching (9:00-10:15 AM)

We meet in our seminar space with our cameras to discuss issues like composition; managing natural and ambient light; and avoiding visual distractions. We'll work indoors and outdoors during this session to practice specific techniques.

Break (10:15-10:30 AM)

Session #3: Photography and Culture (10:30-11:30 AM)

We meet in our seminar space to discuss cultural issues of people photography: gender dynamics between photographer and model; performative behaviors; model agency, especially with vulnerable people; beauty culture and its critique; portraits as a critique of societal norms; and street photography dynamics in Santa Fe.

Lunch (12:00-1:00)

Session #4: Image review and feedback (1:00-2:00)

On Day 1, participants will share 5 images from recent work; thereafter, photos will be taken on site during the prior 24 hours. When presenting work, participants will listen silently to respectful peer feedback. Images will stand on their own without explanation from their creator. Prior to class, upload 5 images for critique to a Google folder that will

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be shared.

Free time and image processing (2:00-5:30 PM)

Dinner (5:30-6:30 PM)

Session #5: Sunset photoshoot (6:30-7:45 PM)

We repeat the same process as Session #1 but reverse the order of light as day fades to night. We'll mix up the groups each day to photograph landscape, peer portraits, macro or fine arts. We meet before sunset and photograph through golden hour, sunset, and twilight, adapting to changing natural and ambient light.