

Architecture and Street Scenes of Exeter

During this course you will be spending the afternoon and evening photographing some of the wonderful sights of Exeter, in what could be described as a combined architectural/travel/street photo shoot.

You will be shooting some of the old and modern buildings and street scenes around the city centre and quay area, as well as possibly around Topsham and the Exe estuary. The shoot will start in the early afternoon and – weather permitting – will carry on until dusk (approx 9pm), when we'll be able to catch the lights coming on.

The course will aim to teach the following skills:

1. How to control and make use of the balance between shutter speed and lens aperture to gain the best exposure;
2. How to use some of the semi-manual modes, in particular shutter-priority and aperture-priority, in order to help you to get away from 'auto-everything';
3. How to use a few other important digital camera functions, such as the ISO setting, the image histogram and exposure compensation;
4. Spotting elements within the scene that may make for good images, and then previsualising how it might be possible to compose them in an image frame;
5. Executing the image, using positioning, perspective, focus control, use of light, and lens focal length to create simple, strong compositions.

Skill Level

Participants should have at least a basic understanding of what shutter speed and lens aperture mean, plus a knowledge of how to operate their own camera in order to get at least basic images.

Beyond this, the only requirements are enthusiasm, and an open mind and readiness to learn!

What to Bring

Participants can use either a digital SLR or a compact camera. For those with interchangeable lenses a focal length range from about 17mm up to about 200mm is ideal. Those without interchangeable lenses, or who have just the one lens, should not worry - they will still be able to take perfectly good images, and they won't have to worry about which lens they should be using!

Those with neutral density graduated filters should also bring these. Such filters are not necessary, so those without them should not worry.

All participants should bring a tripod, spare camera batteries, and spare memory card(s).

Anyone with doubts about how to use their camera should bring their camera manual.

Other items: a) water-proofing for both their camera gear and themselves; b) good quality walking shoes; c) snacks and packed evening meal, or at least the money to buy these; d) mobile phone.

Time: 2pm-Dusk (approx 9pm)

Location: Outside the main entrance to Exeter Cathedral.

Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/dgvX7>

Park in any of the city centre car parks.

Nigel Hicks has been a professional photographer for over 20 years, photographing all over the world for a range of travel clients and photo libraries, including Dorling Kindersley and National Geographic Creative. He is a Fellow of the BIPP, and has been running his own photography workshops, mostly in southwest England, for the past eight years. Although he works in a number of photographic genres, his main commercial areas are travel and architectural photography, and it is in this field that much of his teaching is concentrated.