

## Course Outline

The day will cover coastal landscape photography, starting with general harbour and beach scenes around Lyme Regis, followed by (as the tide drops) a walk out along Monmouth Beach to the west to photograph some of the giant fossils visible here. This will be followed by a trip to Charmouth (we'll drive), a few miles east, where we will do more beach and cliff photography. The day will finish with photography in the coastal woodlands of the Axmouth-Lyme Undercliffs National Nature Reserve, just west of Lyme Regis.

The aim of the course will be 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 landscape that may make for good images, and then pre-visualising 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;
6. Use of a slow shutter speed (with a tripod-mounted camera) to blur the motion of water as it swirls around rocks;
7. The use of neutral density graduated filters to reduce contrast range in bright skies.

## 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

**Camera equipment:** 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 300mm 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. Anyone without them shouldn't worry - I have some that people can borrow.

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 (which you don't mind being subject to salt water) or wellingtons; c) a packed lunch, drinks and snacks (or at least the means to buy these); d) mobile phone.

## About the Tutor

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 the 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 10 years. Although he works in a number of photographic genres, his first love is landscape photography, and it is in this field that most of his teaching is concentrated. To see examples his work go to [www.nigelhicks.com](http://www.nigelhicks.com).

Time: 10am-5pm

Tutor: Nigel Hicks FBIPP

Location: Lyme Regis and area, Dorset.

Meeting place: Outside the Harbourmaster's Office, on the Cobb in Lyme Regis. Postcode: DT7 3JJ

Directions: Coming from either east or west, take the A35 to Lyme Regis. Park in one of the town car parks (pay for four hours) and then walk downhill towards the harbour. The harbourmaster's office is to the right (west side) of the harbour as you approach it, just before the start of the Cobb (the western harbour wall).