

Gerlach Nature Photography

Grand Tetons National Park

Autumn Photography Workshop

Sept. 25 – Oct. 1, 2020

Price: **\$3200** Single Participant with own room

\$2600 Two Participants Sharing one room

Limited to only **5** Participants

With John Gerlach and Dixie Calderone

www.gerlachnaturephoto.com

We are an Authorized Permittee of the National Park Service



Figure 1 Oxbow Bend is a superb during autumn for photographing fall color and the mountains. We will monitor this place closely to be on location when the colors and weather are most suitable for photography.

Grand Teton National Park offers stunning landscapes of the magnificent mountains towering above the rolling hills and rivers of western Wyoming. You'll shoot plenty of exquisite landscape photos under the expert guidance of John and Dixie as they teach you the best photo techniques to use that produce outstanding images. In addition to the landscape, the plentiful wildlife is a key part of this workshop experience.



Figure 2 Most of the Teton photo spots are best during the morning since we are on the East side of the mountains, but sometimes the western clouds light up nicely at sunset too.

John and Dixie live in Idaho where they view the Grand Tetons from their home. We photograph in the Tetons frequently and know the area thoroughly. From having led hundreds of field workshops on photography, we are skilled at guiding groups of eager photographers to optimum locations to perfect their photo skills, shoot memorable images, and above all, to simply enjoy the grandeur of magnificent Grand Tetons National Park.

John and Dixie believe in intensive teaching during all photo workshops and tours. We are always offering suggestions for composition, light, exposure, focus stacking, and eagerly explain the best photo techniques.

Key Photo Skills you will learn:

- How to expose digital images easily and quickly using manual exposure
- The best camera techniques for shooting landscapes
- The enormous benefit of focus stacking the landscape
- How to make strong wildlife compositions
- How to use long lenses to make sharp wildlife images
- Mastering light – color, direction, contrast to produce the best images
- How to focus stack and process the stack with Helicon Focus
- How to use long lenses properly for best results
- How to AF microadjust your camera and lens
- Using wide-angle lenses for stunning landscape images
- How to process images and combine focus stacks with Helicon Focus
- Questions are always welcome!

Field Trips

We all travel together in our Ford Expedition Max SUV. Each morning field trip begins before sunrise, so we are on location as the sun rises. Spectacular spots we are certain to photograph include Oxbow Bend, Mormon Row, Schwabacher's Landing, and other fine dawn locations. Evening field trips begin about three hours before sunset. We seek wildlife photo opportunities in the evening and good location for evening light that hopefully fills the western sky with crimson clouds.

Average September Temperature

High: 66

Low: 30

Sunrise and Sunset

Sunrise: 7:18

Sunset: 7:08



Figure 3 Schwabacher's Landing is super at dawn!

Tour Limit: **5 participants**

What's Included:

- Intensive photo instruction from John and Dixie in the classroom and in the field
- All meals beginning with dinner on Sunday night of the first day and ending with breakfast on the final day
- 6 nights lodging at the Lexington Hotel (single occupancy)
- All ground transportation in our Ford Expedition Max
- Teaching slide programs in the early afternoon or evening

Not Included:

- Airfare
- Items of a personal nature, such as alcoholic drinks
- Park Pass or Entrance Fee
- Trip Cancellation Insurance

You do **not** need to rent a car. Our hotel offers free shuttles to and from the Jackson airport. On field trips, we all travel together in our 2019 Ford Expedition Max. We have taken care of everything for you. Fly into Jackson, rest up, join us for

the first evening meeting where we explain the workshop goals, key photo strategies, and describe the schedule for the week.

Price and Payments

Price:

\$3200 for a private suite

\$2600 each – two participants sharing a suite

Deposit: \$1000

Payment:

Payment can be made by check and made payable to: Gerlach Nature Photography. Mail check to John Gerlach/2632 N. Marr Rd/Columbus, IN 47203. To use a credit card, call Dixie at (812) 350-0799.

A \$1000 per-person **deposit** holds your space in this photo workshop. Full Payment is due 120 days prior to the start of the workshop.

Refunds and Cancellation Policy

If written Cancellation is Received:

90 days or prior:

89 to 61 days prior:

60 or fewer days:

Cancellation Fee:

100% of deposit

50% of entire trip fee

100% of entire trip fee

We strongly suggest buying trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment.

Since these workshops only accept five participants, they sell out quickly. Contact us first to make sure space is available.

John Gerlach

johngerlachphotography@gmail.com

208-320-0951

Dixie Calderone

dacalderone@frontier.com

812-350-0799



Figure 4 Schwabacher's Landing offers a river and pond compositions that work so nicely!

Itinerary:

Day 1: Fly into Jackson, WY (JAC). The hotel offers a free shuttle to and from the airport. We have dinner as a group and then our first introductory meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the hotel.

Day 2-6: We depart the hotel each morning before sunrise to be on location to catch the first rays of rising sun lighting the landscape. Once sunrise ends, we look for wildlife and photograph them whenever we find them in a suitable location and always stop for fine landscape images too. About noon we return to Jackson for lunch at one of the many fine restaurants in town. Then we take a short break at the hotel. In mid-afternoon, we present instructional image programs at the hotel. In late afternoon, we pursue landscape or wildlife till the evening light becomes too dark.

Day 7: We enjoy a hearty breakfast together and then say our good-byes to everyone. We wish you well on your journey home, or we are happy to suggest other places to photograph if you wish to rent a car and travel. You could travel into nearby Yellowstone National Park or further down to Bryce Canyon for colorful hoodoos.



Figure 5 The Grand Tetons Mountain Range

Group Size:

The group size is limited to **five** clients, plus Dixie and John for a total of seven. We like the small group size in one vehicle because it is easier to park in some of the smallest spots, we can teach everyone more about photography and the Grand Tetons, and seating at restaurants is easier to get. Smaller groups are easier to visit places where having more vehicles and people are problematic. Small groups that move slowly make wildlife less nervous, allowing us a closer approach.

Plus, with only five clients, it is easy for us to provide continuous one-on-one instruction in the field. Our goal is to teach you how to use your camera gear to best advantage for making professional quality images.



Figure 6 The clouds at Oxbow Bend can add much to the image!



Figure 7 The Grand Tetons

What to bring:

Clothes

Late September is wonderful weather in Grand Tetons National Park near Jackson, Wyoming. Wear warm clothes, but dress in layers so some clothes can be removed as the cool dawn temperatures moderate as morning progresses. Boots to keep your feet warm are important in the morning as temperatures can be below freezing and snow is possible. Warm gloves that allow your fingers to be exposed to allow working the controls on your camera are helpful. A warm hat will do much to keep you warm.

On a clear morning that ensures wonderful light on the Grand Tetons, we plan to photograph the Mormon barns with the Grand Tetons in the background. A lens of 200mm to 300mm works best to make the Tetons loom high above the barns.

Park Pass and Driver's License

You need to have a park pass and a driver's license to prove who you are to enter national parks.

Camera Equipment

- 2 cameras (in case one malfunctions)
- Lenses that cover 24mm to 300mm for landscapes and sometimes wildlife
- Polarizing filter to remove glare and darken a blue sky
- Long lens for wildlife! Any lens that reaches 500mm, whether a 500mm prime lens, a shorter lens with a teleconverter to make it long, or the crop factor of small-sensor cameras that give the angle of view of a long lens.
- Tripod for shooting landscapes and wildlife with long lenses

Examples: Long prime lenses of 500mm and 600mm are excellent for wildlife. But they are big and expensive. A shorter lens such as a 300mm f/4 become a 420mm f5.6 lens when a 1.4x teleconverter is inserted between the camera and the lens. That works well. And so does a small-sensor camera like the Canon 7D Mark II or new Canon 90D. Both have a 1.6x crop factor. That means the lens sees a smaller angle of view and appears to be a longer lens. A 1.6x crop factor camera used on a 300mm lens is like having a $300\text{mm} \times 1.6 = 480\text{mm}$ lens!

For the record, Dixie is using a Nikon 500mm lens and John uses a Canon 600mm f/4 lens.

Please read the detailed article John wrote on long lens options that is posted on our website. <https://www.gerlachnaturephoto.com/single-post/2020/01/17/Long-Lenses-for-Wildlife-Photography>



Figure 8 A two shot focus stack sharply captures the stones in the foreground and the distant mountains.



Figure 9 Oxbow Bend on a calm September morning.