

Australian Photography Tours - Workshop FAQ

"Ladybird" is a term used for women's groups only. All the following categories can be booked as Ladybird sessions.

"Off The Beaten Track" are workshops and classes held in locations not normally used by tourists. These locations have been chosen because of their ease of access and stunning bush and coastal views.

"Custom / personal" literally means locations close to Sydney, times and dates can be organised to meet your requirements. This is particularly important for overseas and interstate visitors.

"Hire" lenses, filters, tripods and heads can be hired in Sydney resulting in more flexibility with your luggage allowance on airlines.

1. Workshop times and locations

Morning

First light until conditions become unsuitable after sunrise due to the light becoming harsh. These are generally three hour sessions but can be the start of a full days photography. Without doubt sunrise / first light in Australia is the best part of the day. The colours over the east coast particularly if there are clouds is stunning. Late risers have no idea what they are missing.

Evening

Sunset until after last light when photography becomes difficult. These are generally three hour sessions but are flexible depending on the workshop you book. However, I understand that some people prefer sunrise over sunset. Often we experience superb sunsets. To me this is the second best time of the day for photography.

Daytime

Parents / school hours workshops accommodate individuals or small groups of people who might not have time at the weekends or in the evening to pursue their photography interests, see point 8.

Locations:

- Blue Mountains: rainforest and stunning landscapes
- Illawarra: for seascapes, coastline views and marine life including whales during May, June and July.
- Bush: the Macarthur area including Camden are not far from home. My Adobe perfect picture of the year winner was taken here at Menangle.
- National Parks: rainforest, coastal, mountains seascapes, landscapes, flora and fauna, snakes, goannas, wallabies, honey eaters, cockatoos, humpback and southern right whales.

Please note that Australia's fauna is mainly nocturnal and it is rare that one sees them in the daytime. There are parks close to our locations which can be visited to view the "locals". National parks like the 'Royal' have goannas and kookaburras who are used to tourists and think nothing of interrupting your lunch.

I often have a Goanna interrupt my classes, it is interested in the content of their packs. I know it has joined us because everybody jumps up onto the tables then realising it is harmless get down and click away at close range with their cameras. Kookaburras join my classes and talk when I talk which is very disruptive. They sit on the beams above our heads and won't shut up and my students love them. They also want food but we love their laughter, we do not feed the "locals".

2. Items to you will need

Personal:

- ✓ Sun cream.
- ✓ Sun glasses.
- ✓ Personal insect repellent.
- ✓ Personal toiletries.
- ✓ Money / credit card for personal shopping.

Clothing requirements:

- ✓ Sturdy comfortable walking shoes.
- ✓ Raincoat and umbrella and / or a large garbage bag to cover your camera and tripod if it rains. It can also used to keep you dry.
- ✓ A beanie, gloves, hat.
- ✓ Water bottle.

3. Photography equipment to bring

- ✓ Camera: point "n" shoot or SLR.
- ✓ Fully charged batteries.
- ✓ Camera manual.
- ✓ Ideal general lens 24 - 105 mm
- ✓ Telephoto lens 70-200 can be hired.
- ✓ Memory cards.
- ✓ Tripod.
- ✓ Cleaning kit.
- ✓ Circular polarising - essential in our strong light.
- ✓ Lens hood - I use them all the time from sunrise to sunset.

4. Tuition in bad weather conditions

Australian Photography Tours will cancel workshops and classes in the event of:

- Bushfire.
- Continual heavy rain.
- Strong winds which may affect safety in some locations.
- Strong seas which may affect safety on rock platforms or beaches.

We will offer an alternative location for the day or try and fit in another date if your time table will allow it.

5. Transport / public transport timetables

A trip to Australia is the trip of a lifetime for many.

When travelling I try to get as much value from my dollars as possible, we try to offer this to our clients. Transport costs can gobble up the dollars, a cost which is easily reduced.

We have a very good rail system in Sydney and New South Wales which is very cheap.

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All our locations are near a City Rail railway station with the network hub being Sydney's Central Station. The following are on a direct line from Central Station.

- Campbelltown for the Macarthur bush.
- Wollongong for the coast and Royal National Park.
- Cronulla for the coast and Royal National Park.
- Penrith or Katoomba for the Blue Mountains National Parks and rainforest.

To journey to these locations via train is quick and in many cases the journey can be very picturesque. If staying in Sydney simply join the train at Central Station.

The cost is very cheap.

Train times can be accessed by visiting the CityRail Timetable on the internet by phone 131500 or <http://www.cityrail.info/timetables/#landingPoint>. If all else fails contact me via phone or email.

We can supply a driver and transport but this adds to the cost of your trip.

6. King Island 4 Day Tours

Our King Island Safari is one of the best photography packages you will find. You can access King Island from each state capitol. This includes airfares to Melbourne, flights to King Island, 4wd bus, food, accommodation and four days of photography including tuition and mentoring. King Island lies between Tasmania and Victoria in Bass Strait.

The King of islands sits squarely in the middle of the Roaring Forties and is the graveyard of many old sailing ships. It is a photographers paradise with half a million Wallabies on the loose. In this location you will see wild life in abundance.

I was in awe when I first went to King Island as it has so much to offer beginner to advanced photographers.

7. I do not have a digital SLR camera, can I still participate?

Yes! The locations are worth the visit and you will benefit. We have published photographs from mobile phones, point and shoot and SLR cameras on our Australian Photography Tours Best Photographs page.

8. Group size and age limits

We do not take unaccompanied children under 16.

We highly recommend travel insurance as this is not included in the price of the workshop. If tuition is required the group size will not exceed 8 people.

9. Specialised or custom workshops

Sunrise or sunsets can be "one on one" and may have a duration of 5 hours. They are often located in the Blue Mountains and coastal areas with an early start or late finish.

These tuition workshops are priced at a different rate to the group workshops because 100% of my focus is on helping you.

10. Short courses

All our current course / workshops fall into this category and have a duration of 3 to 4 hours at selected locations to photograph twilight, sunrise, custom and rainforest features.

These courses teach the use of the camera settings including white balance, shutter speeds, aperture setting, bracketing, ISO settings and Manual, Aperture Priority and Auto modes and of course composition.

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For additional information our contact details are:

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Website and Facebook:

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