

National Parks and Wildlife Service Snowy Mountains Discovery Rangers Summer Weekend Photography Workshops

Course Introduction

The Snowy Mountains Discovery Rangers Summer Weekend Workshops are intensive photography workshops for photographers ranging from beginners to experienced.

Discover this ancient land beyond its colonial past. This rugged landscape better known as “The Man for Snowy River country” has a mystical beauty more deeply revealed in the stories from its long time aboriginal inhabitants. In our summer program you will have access to the vast high plains areas of Kosciusko National Park. Our guides, Wiradjuri and Walgalu Discovery rangers are descendants of the original people from this country. In addition to the wild landscapes we will visit the homesteads and other remnants of colonial history that makes this a visually fascinating photographic adventure.

This course will allow photographers to advance their capacity to capture the story of this beautiful landscape in its summer season. Two professional photographers deliver the course in conjunction with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Aboriginal Discovery Rangers, in the northern Kosciuszko National Park, one of the world’s great national parks, and the largest in NSW.

Location

The courses will be based around Yarrangobilly in the Snowy Mountain High plains area, northern Kosciuszko National Park. Shoot locations will be selected closer to the weekend depending on weather, fire regulations etc. They may include Yarrangobilly Caves, Currango, Talbingo, Sawyers Trail, 3 Mile Dam, Blue Water Holes, Coolamine Homestead and Batlow Rocks - a stunning range of vistas prominent in this part of the Park, and including a mix of natural and colonial landscapes.

Click through to access a google map and some sample images of the location - click on 'view map' for more detail:

[Location shots gallery with an integrated Google map of the area](#)

Dates

The course dates for this workshop are: 8-10 January 2010

The courses begin at noon on the first day, and end at 11am on the final day.

Schedule

The schedule may be modified to accommodate specific requests from participants, however the start and finish times will remain the same. As mentioned above, specific locations may be changed closer to the weekend dates according to weather, fire restrictions etc.

Day	Time	Activity - SUMMER - Currango
Day 1	12:00	Participants meet at the NPWS Tumut Visitor Centre for introductions & a briefing on the weekend.
	14:00	Participants travel to Talbingo Mountain for the welcome to country ceremony and to photograph spectacular local views.

	17:00	Arrive at Yarrangobilly & check into accommodation
	18:00	Evening bbq meal
	19:00	Tutorial # 1: Lighting exercise in the entrance to the Glory Caves. Painting with light
	20:30	Discussion about the course. Slide show of tutors' and students' work. Discuss the student's course expectations.
Day 2	05:00	Depart for sunrise shoot location at Murrumbidgee River along Long Plain Rd. Tutorial #2: Sunrise shoot & working with golden light
	07:30	Arrive Coolamine Homestead for picnic breakfast and photographing around the homestead Tutorial #3: Creating panoramas including using a panoramic head. Tutorial #4: Photographing for High Dynamic Range (HDR) images
	11:00	Arrive at Blue Water Holes Discovery Ranger information session
	13:00	Discovery Rangers provide bush tucker lunch
	14:00	Photographing at Blue Water Holes
	17:30	Evening Shoot location at Batlow Rocks, Currango Tutorial #5: Planning the evening shoot. Sunset and weather discussion.
	20:00	Dinner at Yarrangobilly Discussion and review of work in progress.
Day 3	06:00	Sunrise shoot location Sawyers Trail, Eucumbene River
	9:00	Breakfast at Yarrangobilly
	10:00	Tutorial 6#: image post-processing, use of Camera Raw
	11:00	Check out and depart.
	open	Optional Caves Tour with National Parks Ranger

Participants

- The Course is open to photographers of any age or skill level.
- Photographers with digital or film SLR equipment are preferred.
- Photographers younger than 18 will need to attend with a driver.
- Maximum group size is 16.

Please note that this course is designed for registered participants only. If you would like to bring family or friends with you for the weekend they will not be able to join the tutorials, however they are welcome to join us for an additional fee for the welcome to country and Discovery Ranger's segments and to share accommodation and meals.

Accommodation

We will make a bulk booking at the Yarrangobilly Caves House, and your place will be secured when registering. Share accommodation is offered with some individual rooms provided. If you intend to bring family or friends with you please let us know the number of beds required.

Your own bed linen and towels are required.

Transport

Participants are responsible for their own transport. Car pooling will be encouraged during the weekend to minimize the number of vehicles driving around the park. 4WD's are great, but all locations are accessible by regular vehicle in fine weather. If you have difficulty organizing transport to the Park please let us know, and we will try to connect you to other participants traveling in your direction. Please make sure you enter the Park with a full tank of petrol as there no fuel or services available in the Park. Closest petrol stations are at Tumut, Adaminaby and Talbingo (restricted hours). Don't forget to check the air pressure in your spare before you leave home.

Food

Meals will be provided at our accommodation, with some meals being catered for with location packs. Please feel free to bring your own snacks and drinks, and let us know before hand if you have any special dietary requirements. Please note that there are no shops or other food supplies available in the Park. It is recommended that you carry drinking water whilst driving in the park.

Please note that family and friends will need to pay for their own meals.

Photo Gear

Participants are to bring all the photographic gear that they would like to use during the weekend. Digital or film SLR's are preferred. Tripods will be handy for low light shoots, and a means of carrying your gear safely is important as some shoot locations are a walk away from vehicles. Equipment backpacks are suggested. Make sure your batteries are charged for when you arrive. The tutorials encourage review of photographic work and workflow, so if you have a portable computer then bring it along with fully charged batteries. Please note that whilst there is no mains electricity supply in the park, there are re-charging opportunities at the accommodation sites.

We recommend you carry water with you, so please bring your own water bottles.

Participants should also bring good outdoor weather gear (see weather conditions, below). Torches are also required. Some locations are a distance from vehicle access, so good boots or walking shoes are recommended.

Weather Conditions

Weather in the Snowy Mountains is changeable. For a weather prediction for the specific weekend of the course you're taking check the Bureau of Meteorology website:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/>

or the weatherzone site at

<http://www.weatherzone.com.au/nsw/southern-tablelands/tantangara>

As at any time of the year in the mountains weather can change quickly. Although it may be warm during the day, evenings can still be cool.

The workshop will continue no matter the weather.

Participants are encouraged to bring good outdoors weather gear - jackets & bush walking boots.

Safety

During the course of the weekend we will be visiting several sacred aboriginal and national heritage sites. Our Discovery Ranger will brief us on matters of safety and respect in relation to these sites, and on general safety issues with regards to working in a wilderness area.

We expect all participants to adhere to these safety guidelines, when they are working with the group or in the event that they may choose to venture away from the group for a short time.

Please note that mobile phone reception is extremely limited in the areas we will visit, if you choose to venture away from the main group make sure that one of the leaders knows where you are going and when you plan to return.

Your safety, and the protection of our environment is a key concern.

Cost

- Course Fee: \$825.00

The course fee for the weekend covers the course content, accommodation, main meals, and park entry fees.

- Accommodation for two nights: \$included

Accommodation will be booked for you when you register for the course. We would prefer that all students stay in the accommodation selected, however, if you would like to arrange your own accommodation please ensure that you are able to join us for all sessions run at or from the accommodation booked by the course. A discount will be available for anyone who does arrange their own accommodation and food.

Accommodation is authentically 'rustic', provided in a restored high plains homestead. Please bring all linen, towels and creature comforts.

- Family and friends: Accommodation and food

If you would like to bring family or friends with you please contact us to see if there is accommodation available as there are limited places. If family or friends do join you they will need to pay for their own accommodation, meals and other related costs, and will not be able to join us during the workshops or shoots as places are reserved for paying participants only. They will, however, be invited to join us for the Discovery Rangers tutorials for an additional fee.

Bookings

For Snowy Mountains Discovery Rangers Weekend Photography Workshop bookings, Discovery Ranger tours and tourist information contact:

Tumut Region Visitor Information Centre:

5 Adelong Road Tumut, NSW 2720

Telephone: 02 - 6947 7025

Fax: 02 - 6947 3752

e-mail: tumutrvic@environment.nsw.gov.au

About those running the course

Discovery Photographers community and workshops: www.discoveryphoto.org

Murray van der Veer:

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René Vogelzang:
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Links

[NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service \(NPWS\)](#)

[NPWS Discovery Ranger program](#)

[National Parks accommodation details](#)

Contact Details

For further details about course schedule and content please contact Murray van der Veer.

For further details about accommodation or to make your reservation please contact the Tumut Region Visitors Information Centre.