"Take nothing but photos, leave nothing but footprints"





Impressions Newsletter ... Namibia "take the road less if aveled Photo Tour Oct 23rd - Nov 7th, 2013

Namibia, Africa October 23rd to November 7th, 2013 is going to be an amazing photo experience. You are invited to join us as we visit the country often referred to as land of endless horizons. We have put together an itinerary that will offer a mix of wildlife, culture and landscape.

On this trek we will be traveling along the Skeleton Coast, visiting the Quiver tree forest for both sunset and sunrise opportunities. Luderitz Bay, and Kolmanskop, which is the famous abandon diamond mine ghost town. Which is now slowing being swallowed up by the desert. Some of you may have seen images from Kolmanskop, that were published in a beautiful book by Freeman Paterson a few years ago.

We will travel along the dunes of Sossusvlei and Solitare. Stay in the beautiful raised Moon Mountain Top Lodge within the Nauklft Mountains. Have your camera at the ready as you sit on your deck at the lodge, as Springbok, Oryx and Mountain Zebra often frequent this area.

The dunes at Sossusvlei are some of the highest in the world. (con't 2)



ICELAND PHOTO TOUR JULY 5TH TO 13TH, 2013



IRELAND PHOTO TOUR AUG 17TH TO SEP 1ST, 2013



NAMIBIA PHOTO TOUR OCT 23RD TO NOV 7TH, 2013



Moon Mountain Top Lodge - Sossuvlei, Namibia

Namibia Continued ...

We will have opportunity to photograph the dunes during different times of the day, including sunrise and sunset.

While in the Sossusvlei region, we will be visiting Sesriem Canyon. The canyon offers a vast contrast to the flatlands and deserts of this country.

What trek to Africa would not be complete without Safari's. We will be visiting Etosha game reserve, one of Africa's greatest game parks. Etosha has 114 species of mammal and 340 species of birds that call the game reserve home.

This is one of the few places, possibly the only place in Africa where some of the best game viewing happens in the heat of the day. Game gather in the hundreds at the waterholes to drink and enjoy the shade. As vegetation in most of this region is sparse, the

animals have learned to drink during the day when predators are inactive and it is the safest time for them to be out.

We will round out the tour with urban experiences, visiting some of the small villages and towns as we travel the country. We still have some space available for this tour both for double and single occupancy.

If you are interested in joining us on this trek, or want to read additional information and to download our Namibia travel brochure, you can visit Photo Tour Trekkers website at

http://phototourtrekkers.com/ tours/namibia-13-tour/

You may also call myself or Shari at 519-679-8520 or toll free at 866-614-7717, James ext 2333, Shari ext 2231.

The cost of our Namibia Photo Tour is \$8080 CDN per person based on double occupancy, single supplement is \$1550 CDN. plus taxes of \$739. Price includes air and meals.



Sesriem Canyon



Sossusvlei Sand Dunes



Quiver Tree Forest Sunrise



Etosha Game Reserve



Etosha Game Reserve

India Photo Gallery ... Blackwater Cafe Sarnia

Photo Gallery of India ...

I had the pleasure of traveling with several members of the Sarnia Photographic Club during our Feb 2013 India Photo Tour. We had a great time, enjoyed many experiences and came home with some amazing photographs.



Jim Paton one of our guests on the tour and a member of the Sarnia Photographic Club, spoke with his fellow photographers that traveled with us and organized this amazing gallery celebrating India at the Blackwater Cafe in Sarnia. The contributing photographers were Jim and Ann Paton, Bill Coombes, Elly Heene, June Pryor, Rob McClacherty, Wes and Anna Terryberry. Each photographer submitting several pieces. There was over 30 images in the exhibit.

When I visited the gallery, the colours and emotion portrayed in the images, made it feel like we were back in India. What an honour to see their work, the cross section of faces, landscapes, wildlife and landmarks said it all. The gallery ran from May 1st to 30th, 2013.

There was one other lesson that I saw here and have spoke about it many times before, and that is the importance of printing and sharing your images. The group created this series in many different sizes and canvas wraps. Thus preserving a glimpse of their experiences and the culture we visited. Job well done everyone, and again congratulations to Jim Paton for organizing a successful gallery.



Photo Gallery contributing photographers: Jim and Ann Paton, Bill Coombes, Elly Heene, June Pryor, Rob McClacherty, and Wes and Anna Terryberry

Remembering a friend

Ross Blakey passed away April 7th, 2013



There is no braver battle than fighting the fight against cancer ... I want to take a few minutes and celebrate the life of a fellow Photo Trekker, a brilliant photographer and a dear friend, Ross Blakey.

Ross was a very unique photographer, both in technique and his dedication to the art. He really enjoyed the study of light and it's constant changing effects on his subjects. I remember Ross showing me a series of images he took of what he called "his tree". It was located just outside of the city and he made it a point to visit it at different times of the day, and over the changing seasons. Every image he took of this tree was a piece of art onto it's own. This was just one of many places or subjects he would return to as he created his gallery of images.

His patience and perseverance, reflected in all of his beautiful images. Ross never made a big deal of his work, but was proud of his photographs. He knew his camera gear and most importantly how and when to use it.

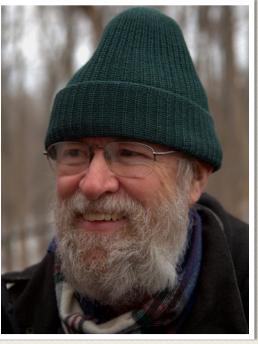


Photo Credit Bill Lloyd

Ross traveled with Photo Tour Trekkers on many of our day photo excursions and on several of our longer photo tours. His last tour with us was to Newfoundland in 2011. He had his sights on a few of our other adventures but unfortunately his health and treatment timings would not allow it.

Ross was a long standing member of the Woodstock and London Camera Club, were I know he enjoyed many hours of photography and fellowship. Another love and his greatest pride was his coin collection. Ross was known both in Canada and Britain for his knowledge and extensive collection of rare and limited edition coins.

I would also like to acknowledge Caroline Lang, Ross's cousin. All through Ross' battle with this wicked disease, Caroline and her family were close by. For many hours at the hospital she sat and talked to Ross and his friends as they visited. Caroline what you did and the time you spent with Ross, is something very special. Your compassion and love were his greatest comfort.

A celebration of Life was held at the Forest Lawn Memorial Chapel on April 20th, 2013.

To a Friend ...

Tinkering with cameras, Exploring the woods, You lived to be outside. You were happy most any place, It didn't take much. A few friends and the light just right. Never a minute was wasted, you found plenty to do. You said "Life is what you make it" Simple things, your coins, your photos, a big dish of ice cream. It did not have to be complicated. Your smile said hello, your presence said friend. All these things were your own design. Rest in peace dear friend, no braver soul has walked this earth.

Ireland Photo Tour - Aug 17th to Sept 1st, 2013 be part of the Gathering 2013

Join us for a photo tour of the Emerald Isle

Join Dave Chidley and myself as we photograph and travel to the beautiful country of Ireland. We have created an itinerary that will give you an opportunity to explore both Southern and Northern Ireland.

On this tour we fly direct from Toronto to Dublin. Once in Ireland we have teamed up with MacPherson Motor Coaches, (those of you that traveled with us to Scotland will remember their hospitality) as we visit and photograph the various regions.

We will be visiting the National Stud, which is known worldwide for breeding quality horses. Then traveling along the coast to Galway, with photo shoots in some of the small villages and along the cliffs of Moher, then continue our journey north towards Sligo and Londonderry. Locations in Northern Ireland include Giant's Causeway, Slieve Leauge

Cliffs, Carrick Rope Bridge and Belfast. While in Belfast we will have an evening private visit, photo shoot and dinner at the new Titanic Exhibit, which is located on the slipways were the Titanic was built.

We will be in Belfast and region for three nights, allowing us plenty of time to capture urban life and some of the historic architecture. While in this region we will visit Bangor and Millisle, and hold a photo shoot at an ancient abby that is located close to the coast.

Then traveling south we will begin our journey towards Dublin, spending a couple of nights in the Mourne Mountain and Dundalk regions. We will be holding daily photo shoots and making stops as we travel through this area, arriving back in Dublin for the last leg of our tour.

While in Dublin we will be photographing at Trinity College, visiting the book of Kells, St. Patricks Cathedral, Kilmainham Jail, and the Guinness Brewery and Storehouse just to name a few locations.

On our final evening in Dublin, we will have a traditional pub night by having dinner at the famous Ploughboys Pub, complete with dinner, Irish music and dancers.

We still have two spots available for our Ireland tour. The cost of the tour is \$3749 CAD plus air taxes of 464.15 CAD, based on double occupancy. Single supplement is available for \$495.00 CAD. Price includes airfare, breakfast and dinner each day. If you are interested in booking the tour, reading our complete day by day itinerary or to download the travel brochure, please visit Trekkers website at: http://phototourtrekkers.com/tours/ireland-photo-tour/

You may also contact Shari Parker or myself at Carlson Wagonlit Travel A 519-679-8520 or toll free 866-614-7717 Shari extension 2231 James extension 2223.



IRFLAND

PHOTO TOUR

2013

Titanic Exhibit Belfast





Ancient Abby & Guinness







Belfast Panoramic

Fall Photo Tour Washington DC Sept 26th to 30th, 2013

You are invited to join us for a weekend of photography and fall colours. As we visit the US Capital in September.





Hosts for this tour are Dave Chidley and James Cowie. Urban Photo Walks, Workshops and Challenges.



Welcome to the United States Capital ... Washington D.C, We are very excited to offer the many photo opportunities this beautiful and historic city has to offer. During our tour of the nations capital we will be visiting historical landmarks, hosting night photography workshops, photo walks and a an optional Lightroom and Photoshop workshop during an evening on the tour.

Our tour will include visits to the Ford Theatre, the Old Post Office and Observation tower, the Capital Building, Union Station, the Lincoln, Jefferson and Washington Memorial. We will also be holding a photo shoot at the Metro Station and a visit to Arlington Cemetery and the White House. Dave and I look forward to you joining us on our Washington D.C. Photo Experience in September. This tour was rescheduled from the spring of this year.

Our Washington Photo Tour is \$875.00 CAD per person including taxes based on double occupancy, single supplement is an additional \$315.00 CAD. Our tour departs from London, Ontario.

Includes:

- Round trip luxury motor coach to Washington DC via Ayr Coach Lines
- All transportation in Washington DC
- Departures from London, and Woodstock, we will be crossing at Buffalo, NY,
- Accommodations at the Arlington Holiday Inn Hotel,
- Full American breakfast each morning at the hotel,
- Dinner at Buca Di Peppo on final evening
- Reservations and admissions
- Photo passes where required,
- Admission and tour at Arlington Cemetery
- Night Photography
- Admission to Great Falls National Park
- Tour hosted and escorted by photographer James Cowie and co-hosted by photographer Dave Chidley,
- ** Schedule may vary according to weather and travel conditions.
- ** Guests must have a valid passport for entry into the United States.

Tour Exclusions: Any item not listed on the itinerary, gratuities to coach driver, personal insurance coverage, alcoholic beverages, and laundry.

For a complete tour itinerary, brochure and photo tour registration please visit Photo Tour Trekkers website at www.PhotoTourTrekkers.com



Night Photography at Lincoln Memorial



DC Metro Station

Light Forms .. A new form of photography

IMPRESSIONS NEWSLETTER

Many of our fellow trekkers will know this upbeat and very creative lady. For those of you that don't, it is my pleasure to introduce you to Elzbieta Kurowska, or to her friends Ela. Along with her husband Pawel, they live in London, Ontario. Ela has created a new form of photographic art, combining her photographic skills and knowledge as a biochemist.

Elzbieta has discovered these amazing forms and how they take shape by taking three elements that seldom meet. Photographic art, biochemistry and material science. This original technique captures spectacular visual effects displayed by organic gels in polarized light.

Wow, what does this all mean. Well, she's smart and very creative all at the same time. After creating these forms on organic gels, Ela then photographs them giving them a life of their own. Some resemble organic life forms, others look like underwater colonies, fish, plants, birds, distant planets, and just about anything else your creative imagination allows you to see.

On May 29, 2013, Ela celebrated her first exhibition of "Light Forms" in Galeria Schody, Warsaw, Poland. Ela also has a show in Vancouver starting June 1st. Congratulation on taking this creative idea, and turning it into spectacular photo images. We wish you great success.

To see and learn more visit Elzbieta's website at www.LightForms.ca or Light forms facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lightforms/557986517579492 also http://www.behance.net/gallery/Light-Forms/9096933



Opening Night May 29, 2013 Warsaw, Poland



Backlight Transparencies Vancouver Show

Photography Education ... by Dave Chidley

"Try not to have a good time...this is supposed to be educational."
- Charles M. Schulz



I have spent three decades as a professional photographer, and it has now become apparent to me that I will never stop learning. Maybe it is because I tend to forget more than I learn?

Constant learning is necessary to constantly improve. That is why I am now becoming more of a photography educator, so I can continue to learn from those around me.

Be it traveling with a likeminded group on a Trekkers excursion; participating in workshops; joining a camera club; or maybe even a full-time college program, (like at Lambton College where I now teach, wink, wink, nudge, nudge), expanding your skills and vision through learning can be rewarding and fun.

Today photography is changing at such an amazing rate it is a daily task to keep up on the latest trends and technologies. I just read about a workshop being offered to teach people how to "professionally" use their cell phones cameras. This comes as recent Apple ads are broadcast claiming that the iPhone is the most popular camera in the world. Camera manufacturers are witnessing a huge decline in the sales of point-and-shoot cameras. The latest figure that I read was a 46% decline in the past year.

Interestingly the sale of Digital SLR cameras is significantly up, in the double digits. To me this is an indicator that those "serious" about photography, and are eager to take the next step from "phoneography" is on the upswing as more people get excited about photography.

I'm still waiting for Canon or Nikon to put a cellphone in my camera!

Does this decline in "real" consumer level cameras mean that still photography is diminishing? Not by the numbers. I have always said to be a professional photographer it is extremely difficult because, everyone is a Photographer, today more than ever.

In the 1930's it was estimated that a billion photos were taken per year. By the 70's we were clicking 10 billion a year. By 2000 the estimate was 86 billion a year. Today, with cellphone photography exploding this has multiplied by ten to 860 billion photos per year. This year over 70 billion photos will be posted to Facebook alone.

But, how many are good ones?

It begs the question, does more mean better? How much thought, design and composition, exposure control, content, and soul went into that camera phone snapshot? Honing your skills, expanding your knowledge, and developing an artistic vision will elevate you beyond snapshots. Even, if you are using a cellphone camera.

This is where the constant "education" and the desire to improve, comes into play. Anyone who has traveled with me on Trekkers trips is aware that I often say that a camera is simply a tool, it's what you do with that tool that matters.

Seeing, and capturing light, creatively composed with awe inspiring content makes good images. Simple steps, but we do our best to forget the basics and end up more worried about mega-pixels, bokeh, cell phone photo apps, Photoshop modifications, accessories, filters, Instagram, etc. and then posting them on a computer page the size of a postage stamp.

If you are serious about photography, instead of shooting a couple of thousand photos today, spend some time reflecting on how to get better. A little group learning is certainly one of the best I've discovered.

I hope we can learn from each other soon.

Dave

courses at year the

Dave's website/blog www.davechidley.ca

In addition to co-hosting Photo Tour Trekkers trips, Dave is now teaching four courses at the exciting new Lambton College Digital Photo program in Sarnia. In the first year the students ranged in age from 18-58 years-old. To learn more about the program:

http://www.lambton.on.ca/Programs/FT_Program_page.aspx?id=2147484879 http://digitalphotographylambtoncollege.blogspot.ca/



Photo Tour Trekkers is pleased to be partnering with the Photography Club of Bayfield for their first annual Bayfield Foto Fest, Saturday October 5th and Sunday October 6th, 2013. Bayfield is a beautiful river and lake front community on Lake Huron, located approximately one hour and fifteen minutes north-west of London. About one hour or so north of Sarnia, about one hour and thirty minutes west from Kitchener and about three hours west of Toronto.

Participants will have the opportunity to partake in photo presentations and workshops in the morning followed, in the afternoon, by a linked Photowalk accompanied by our guest photographers. We will be providing a choice of workshop topics that complement each of the photowalks.

On the "Nature Walk" we will be working with Wide-angle and Macro photography, on the "Water Walk" we will be working with reflections and light, on "Village Life" you will learn how to tell a story with your photography, and "Capturing the Image: Beyond the Auto Setting" is a photo walk for the budding photographer that wishes to expand their horizons. Each of the photo walks will be held on local routes and trails that correspond with the workshop subject.

The cost of the event will be \$50.00 for one day or \$80.00 for two days. If you belong to a camera or photographic club the fee will be \$40.00 for one day or \$65.00 for two days.

Registration and additional information is available by visiting Photo Tour Trekkers Website. See all the days events, select your activities, register and purchase your tickets online. (link below)

http://phototourtrekkers.com/news/bayfield-foto-festival/

More Links:

Fall Foto Fest on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bayfield-Fall-Foto-Festival

Photography Club of Bayfield on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Photo.Club.Bayfield

Photography Club of Bayfield Email: bayfieldpc@gmail.com

More about Bayfield: http://my-bayfield.com/#/weekend/



Future Tours / Current Tour Updates



Current Tours and travel projects we are working on ...

Listed below is space availability on our current tours and updates of some of the photo tours preparing to depart and in the planning stages.

Tours space available for booking ...

Iceland Photo Tour - July 5th to 13th, 2013 - Call to check for space

Ireland Photo Tour - August 17th to Sept 1st, 2013 - 2 spaces available

Washington DC Fall Tour - September 26th to 30th, 2013 - 17 spaces available

Namibia Photo Tour - October 23rd to Nov 7th, 2013 - 5 spaces available

All our tours can be booked online by visiting www.PhotoTourTrekkers.com then click on the tour registration. Once you registration is filled out, we will contact you in regards to any final details. If you have any questions please contact us 519-679-8520 or toll free 866-614-7717, James at ext 2223 and Shari at ext 2231.

Vietnam & Cambodia: Feb 20th - Mar 6th, 2014 and April 3rd to 17th, 2014

The dates have been set for our two Vietnam & Cambodia Tours for 2014. Both tours will be limited to 15 photographers. During our photo trek we will spend two nights on our own private boat on Ha Long Bay and and sail on the Mekong Delta, experience a Floating Village and a water puppet show accompanied by a live band in Hanoi.

On our trek we will be visiting Hanoi, Hoi An, Denang, and Ho Chi Minh City then on to Siem Reap and the ancient ruins of Angkor Wat in Cambodia. While in Vietnam we will spend time with a local photographer who will introduce you to some of the local people and give you first hand experience of urban life. I had the pleasure to meet Etien during my pre-tour visit earlier this year. This will be an experience not soon forgotten.

If you are interested in experiencing Vietnam and Cambodia we will be releasing full tour details and registration shortly. You can also visit our future tours page and by providing your name, the tour dates and your email address, we will notify you when the tour becomes available for booking.

Outer Hebrides Scotland: May 25th to June 8th, 2014

"Near the sea, we forget to count the days" The Outer Hebrides is one of the most amazing locations to photograph and visit. A variety of rolling landscapes and some of the most amazing views, there are few comparable places to captivate the senses and the imagination. The unique culture, hospitality and absolute freedom, Scotland does it right.

On this tour you will have opportunity to explore, experience and photograph Glasgow, the Isle of Skye, Stornaway, Benbecula, Barra, Oban, Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. Visit beautiful Edinburgh, travel the whiskey trail, fishing villages, distilleries, and the experience of traditional Scotland. We will be traveling with our MacPherson Motor Coach company, their knowledge of Scotland and hospitality is the best. Advance notice same as above.





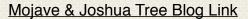
Mojave Desert & Joshua Tree Photo Tour April 17 to 26, 2013

Another great photo trek to the southwest ...

The Mojave Desert and Joshua Tree National Park are two of the lesser visited regions in the southwest, which proved to be rewarding for our photography. We had one shoot at a location called Black Canyon were we did not see anyone else all day, it was great. We enjoyed several sunrise and sunset shoots and did a little urban photography around Palm Springs in California.

One of the other interesting places we visited was the Salton Sea. The water contains 15% more salt content than that of the ocean. You have never experience a more abandon place. Again very interesting for photographs.

If you did not follow our tour blog and want to see details of places we visited and photographs, please click on the link below. Our next Photo Tour is to Iceland on the 5th of July, 2013.



http://phototourtrekkers.com/blog/joshua-tree-photo-tour-april-2013/



Sultan Sea



Black Canyon



Marilyn Palm Springs

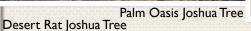


Kelso Sand Dunes Dan and the flying hat.











Humming Bird Palm Oasis Joshua Tree

Interesting Trekkers Bits ... Follow our Iceland Blog



ICELAND PHOTO TOUR - JULY 2013

July 5th is approaching quickly as we get ready to depart for our Iceland Photo Tour. You are invited to follow our Iceland Tour on our Blog at Photo Tour Trekkers website. The tour departs on July 5th, 2013.

My co-host for this tour is Ottawa photographer Vanessa Dewson. I'm very excited to have her traveling with us on this journey. We will be sending out a blog link and notice as the date grows closer.





London Beat Magazine featured an article about Photo Tour Trekkers in their spring edition of the Magazine. If you would like to read the article click on the link below. The article is on page 21 & 22.

http://www.thebeatmagazine.ca/PDFs/currentissue/ TheBeat currentissue Spring2013.pdf

Carlson Wagonlit Travel has introduced their new Specialty Travel Book for 2013/2014. Photo Tour Trekkers are featured in the book. If you would like to see our feature page click on the link below. https://www.cwtvacations.ca/cwt/pdf/ CWTSpecialtyTravel_PhotographyTours.pdf

Pic of the Day - on www.PhotoTourTrekkers.com Join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter



Like us on facebook to receive notices of upcoming photo tours, travel blog updates, photo tips and news on upcoming workshops.

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Photo-Tour-Trekkers/130895347053364



Pic of the Day

We love to share your images if you have been on a tour with us and want to share some of your images please visit the Trekkers website and submit your images via the submissions page. Please make sure to give us your name, tour and location of the image you are submitting. Click here to submit an image.

2013 / 2014 Photo Tours

Summary Page of Current and Future Photo Tours:

Iceland Photo Tour July 5th to 13th, 2013

The land of fire and Ice. Get ready to overload your senses with some amazing photography as we tour the beautiful country of Iceland. The cost of the tour is \$4150 CAD from Toronto and \$4400 from Ottawa. Price includes taxes and airfare.

Ireland Photo Tour August 17th to Sept 1st, 2013

2013 is the gathering on the emerald isle of Ireland and we will be there to photograph and experience one of the most beautiful places on earth. The cost of the tour is \$3749 plus \$464.15 tax CAD based on double occupancy. This tour is now available for booking.

Washington DC Photo Tour Sept 26th to 30th, 2013

Join us for a photography weekend in the US Capital. Urban photo walks, night photography, workshops and more. The cost of the tour is \$875.00 CAD including taxes single supplement 4315.00. This tour is now available for booking.

Namibia Photo Tour October 23rd to Nov 7th, 2013

Africa at it's best this trek will reward photographers with beauty beyond belief. The Namibia desert is to be experienced besides photographed and the safaris will never be forgotten. This tour is now available for booking, the cost is \$8080 CAD plus tax of \$739 based on double occupancy.

Additional Tour Dates:

Vietnam and Cambodia two tours February 20th to March 6th, 2014 April 3rd to 17th, 2014

Outer Hebrides Scotland

May 25th to June 8th, 2014

April 2014 Yosemite / San Francisco July 2014 Queen Charlotte Islands

Tuscany Photo Tour September 2014

Machu Picchu October 2014

Future Projects 2015 and beyond:

Guatemala February 2015

Israel April 2015

Galapagos Islands & Quito June 2015 Kenya & Tanzania Sep-Oct 2015

Carlson If you are interested in one of our Wagon future tours please send us advance notice to reserve space to icowie@carlsonwagonlit.com or fill out an advanced notice request on the Future Tours page by visiting Photo Tour Trekkers website.



IRELAND

Booking your Photo Tour

Booking one of our photo adventures only takes a few minutes and is quick and easy with our online booking form.

www.PhotoTourTrekkers.com

Select the tour you wish to join from the main page then once you have reviewed the tour click on the register link and you are set to join us on the trek.

Contact Information:

1-866-614-7717 1-519-679-8520 James Cowie ext. 2223 Shari Parker ext. 2231



tico.ca TICO Registration #50017274

Tour Details, Dates, Brochures and On-line booking available at www.PhotoTourTrekkers.com