

CROSSROADS WORKSHOPS IN SITKA, ALASKA

AUGUST 8-14, 2017

LOCATION

Sitka is located in Southeast Alaska on the west coast of Baranof Island. This seaside town is flanked by snow-capped mountains to the East and cradled by the Pacific Ocean to the West. Like most Southeast Alaska communities, Sitka is accessible only by air or by sea.

GETTING THERE AND AWAY

Sitka's Rocky Gutierrez Airport (SIT) is served by Alaska Airlines (1-800-252-7522, www.alaskaair.com). Scheduled daily jet service links Sitka directly with Seattle, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and Ketchikan. If you are arriving from the lower 48, plan to connect via Seattle (SEA). Shuttle service, (907) 747-5800, from the airport to/from local accommodations is available May through September. Some hotels also provide airport pickup and taxis are readily available.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

CAR RENTAL

There are two rental agencies located at the Sitka International Airport. We recommend trying AVIS (<http://www.avisalaska.com/sitka/>). The AVIS sales counter is located in the airport near baggage claim. If you plan to rent a car, it is advisable to make a reservation as soon as you enroll in the workshop. August is prime time for fishermen, and rental cars do sell out. Sometimes it is nice to have a car - it does provide a place for your gear, food, an extra jacket and dry clothing. If it turns out you don't need a car after all, you can always cancel it. It might be possible to pair up with someone else in the workshop to share the cost of renting a car. Let us know if you are interested in car sharing and we will connect you with like-minded souls.

TAXIS

Taxis are everywhere, shuttling tourists and fisherman all over the island. Many of the workshop locations are within 15- 20 minutes walking distance from the Sitka Fine Arts Campus where we will be based. When we go far afield it is possible to grab a cab (most are vans) and share the cost with a few people. There is even a bike store in town where you can rent a bike for the week.

LODGING

Lodging in Sitka during the summer months can be quite expensive and rooms fill up fast. To help accommodate workshop participants, Crossroads has reserved a block of rooms at the Sitka Fine Arts Campus. It is a beautiful old campus right in the heart of Sitka, within easy walking distance to Crescent harbor, Totem Park, Aquarium, and the downtown area. The Fine Arts Campus will be the base for all of our meetings. The rooms are very economical - no frills, clean and cheap but not fancy. They are "dorm" style. You can choose to have a private room with a shared bath down the hall. Some rooms may have twin beds or bunk-style beds. If you are pretty relaxed about your choice of accommodations, if you

love a bargain, and if savings are more important than towels, this might be a good fit for you!

Cost: shared room (twin bed) \$35/night, private room (double occupancy) \$70/night, and an apartment (2 bedrooms, kitchen, common space) \$200/night.

To request housing at the Sitka Fine Arts Campus, submit the request form online using the link below. Once you have submitted your request, you will receive an email response from the rental management team at AK Arts Southeast within two (2) business days. Please note: your room is not confirmed until they have received payment.

<https://docs.google.com/a/fineartscamp.org/forms/d/1aYv8mKSFAXrGeAQLaIF7U2PySAuRFhGTTMAZL5kM4ws/viewform>

If you would like to explore other housing options, there are also motels, inns, bed & breakfasts, and vacation rentals available in Sitka. However, these choices are more expensive and tend to fill up quickly in the summer months. One option is The Eagle Bay Inn, which is very clean, with large rooms that contain a mini-fridge and microwave for around \$179 a night –includes cold breakfast. The Eagle Bay Inn is a few miles outside of town, near the Raptor Center. They provide free airport shuttle. There is also a Super 8 motel in town with reasonable rates. There are some smaller cottages for rent on the Internet. We recommend making a reservation as early as possible to secure a room during the month of August.

MEALS AND FOOD

Participants are responsible for their own meals. There are several grocery stores in town and Sitka has many choices for dining out, everything from sushi to gluten free crepes. There is a noisy vibrant pub, upscale cafes, as well as Ludwig's famous chowder, which you can enjoy on the beach as you watch the salmon leap right off shore. As a group we will likely be spread out at any given time, possibly shooting in different locations, but we will always allow time for meals. For some outings packing a sack lunch may be advisable. Having a snack and water bottle with you is always a good idea.

WEATHER

Temperatures in Sitka in August hover around 60°F with lows around 52°F at night. There is often cloud cover and rain is a very good possibility. Don't despair; a light rain or mist is absolutely wonderful for photographing streams and forests. Be prepared to photograph outdoors, rain or shine. Bring rain gear, a waterproof jacket and pants, and very sturdy trail shoes or hiking boots. There are sporting goods stores in Sitka where you can purchase "Sitka sneakers", which are knee-high lined waterproof boots that the locals seem to live in. We strongly advise extra pairs of socks so that even your wet feet will be comfy. The Tongass is a rainforest, and one of our main subjects will be salmon streams, so think about your foot wear and rain gear.

In Sitka you can also purchase some nice very lightweight nylon bags that you can pop an extra lens or batteries into as needed. Also, remember that you will at some point find yourself out on a small boat, so even if it is a garbage bag, plan to have something to protect your gear.

If there is a downpour, we will take that time to review images, go over our shot lists and eat cookies. Because of the "on- assignment" nature of this workshop, participants and instructors are going to approach the days in the same way we would when working

professionally. We will photograph what the conditions will allow us to shoot successfully. This approach does require a bit more mental and emotional flexibility at times, but as David will tell you, "it is good for you!"

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE AND LOCATION

We will hold our classroom discussions and editing sessions at the Sitka Fine Arts Campus. We will begin the workshop at **7pm on August 8th** and wrap things up by **11am on August 14th**. We recommend you book the 2pm flight out of Sitka to allow time for wrap up, checking out of your room and getting to the airport. For more information on the Sitka Fine Art Campus visit: <http://fineartscamp.org/campus/>. Let us know if you would like a walking map of Sitka ahead of time to help you get oriented once you arrive.

NON-PROFIT PARTNERS

During this 7-day workshop in Sitka, we will be working closely with local non-profit organizations that are trying to move Sitka and the Tongass toward a more connected and sustainable future. The Sitka Conservation Society (<http://www.sitkawild.org>) has worked since 1967 to protect the old-growth forests and the wild salmon of the Tongass. Our images will support their important educational programs.

WHAT TO BRING

CLOTHING

Rain jacket, boots or sturdy hiking shoes, wool socks, hat, rain pants, fleece, and extra layers are highly recommended. Yes, it is August, but it is chilly, especially in the mornings, evenings, and some of the middle parts of the day as well. If you are coming from the South or mid-West you will find this hard to believe, but take out the shorts and put the polar fleece in your bag.

EQUIPMENT

A Laptop with image editing software, card reader and a thumb drive are needed. A back-up drive is a good idea as well, but not required. As far as image-processing software goes, we highly recommend Adobe Lightroom. It is easy to learn, very intuitive and it makes file management and editing very efficient. Instructors will be using Lightroom during the workshop. Photoshop or Elements are also fine – as long as you are familiar with using those programs.

**You should be able to independently import, edit, and export your images for delivery to the instructors as there may not be an abundance of time in the classroom to teach these basics. Please have the software installed on your laptop before the workshop begins and spend some time getting familiar with the basic functions. That way you will be prepared and we can spend more time on image critique and discussion. Please feel free to contact us before the start date of the workshop if you have any questions on editing software.*

CAMERA AND LENSES

- DSLR (Point and shoots will not be sufficient)
- Extra batteries and charger - and all cords that go with your devices.
- Memory cards
- Wide angle zoom, somewhere in the 12-24mm or 16-35mm range
- Midrange zoom, 24-120mm, 70-200mm
- Longer lens – 300mm or more (*see note below)
- Macro capable lens

- Polarizing filters for all your lenses, as well as lens cloths and lens hoods.
- A sturdy tripod with a ball head
- A sturdy bag or backpack to carry your photo gear

**Do not purchase anything before you contact one of the instructors. You don't need a macro or a long lens for the workshop, but bring it if you have it. Keep in mind, you will be carrying all your own equipment, so don't go nuts.*

MISCELLANEOUS

Bring any medications you normally take. There is a pharmacy in town, as well as a hospital. Cell phone service can be spotty.

LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE

You do not have to be a professional photographer, or even aspire to be one, to contribute and participate in these workshops! We are looking primarily for participants who are very excited about the idea of supporting non-profit causes, and who have achieved a relative level of competency with their photography.

What does this mean exactly?

During this workshop, the instructors will not be able to spend time teaching what we consider to be the "basics" of photography. You should understand how to use your camera and what the various lenses do. You should understand ISO, F-stop, and shutter speed - how and when to adjust each of these variables- and how they interact with each other. You should know how to create a photograph that is properly exposed and in focus. We are looking for a certain comfort level with the craft of photography, such that we can say to you, "the Sitka Conservation Society needs a wide-angle shot of this stream", or "the Raptor Center needs a headshot of this eagle", and you would have a pretty decent idea of how to accomplish that task. We are only bringing this topic up so that no one will show up and be disappointed to find out there will be no instruction in the basics.

However, do not fret! Yes, we will be actively teaching you! We will be teaching you how to improve your visual storytelling grammar, and we will be supporting you in the field as you wrestle with your assignments. We will help you to successfully complete your personal goals, and the overall goals of the partner project. You will also learn a great deal by participating in our group image reviews and edit sessions. You will enjoy the process of getting a peek behind the scenes at how a pro evaluates a day's work, and you will learn to incorporate those newfound skills into your own work-flow.

Most importantly, we want you to have a wonderful experience. We want to share with you the deep satisfaction that working on a project can bring – the excitement and energy that invigorates your creative process when you are shooting with a purpose. So, bring your camera, your enthusiasm, your willingness to learn and your smart wool. We will bring our dedication to teaching, and many years of experience to help you expand your photographic talents and storytelling ability. You will go home with some new found skills, some new friends, some great images, and you will leave behind some valuable work that will directly support a great cause.

Hope to see you in Sitka!

If you have further questions or concerns, or you just want to check in before registering, please feel free to contact us:

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