



# From Snaps to Photographs

## Country

United Kingdom

## Region

London

## Instructor

Jonathan Maher

## Dates

17 May > 18 May 08

## Price

£250.00

## Overview

At VSP Workshops, we have seen over the years that some of the most profound and significant improvements in peoples' skills, come from those who are just starting. There are few things more gratifying to see than somebody who is just starting to discover the art and craft of taking 'photographs' rather than snaps.

This workshop is intended for those who are making this important step in photography, who want to learn how to make more interesting and original images. We'll help you understand some of the basic reasons why some images are more successful than others. We'll deal with some of the more traditional 'guidelines' to better photography, as well as how you can break the rules to create fun and original images.

By the end of the two days you will understand how to evaluate a scene, you'll have developed techniques for 'seeing' and 'visualising' the photo, and we'll ensure you can successfully put this into practice as we head out onto the streets of London.

## Itinerary

### What is Included

Two full days of tuition & critique sessions  
Refreshments during review sessions (tea, coffee)  
Workshop notes

### What is Not Included

Accommodation  
Transportation during workshop  
Dinners

## Calendar

Friday 16 May 2008 - ARRIVAL DAY

For those arriving the evening before, there will be an optional meeting for introductions, drinks and dinner together in the centre of London. This is a good chance to meet fellow photographers, and chat with your instructor about the days to come and your own personal objectives. Exact meeting time and place to be decided

Saturday 17 May 2008 - WORKSHOP DAY 1



Briefing and introductory talk by instructor Jonathan Maher at workshop teaching location

Session will start by clarifying your individual goals, and laying out what we will achieve with you over the coming two days. We'll start by introducing you to what distinguishes a simple 'holiday snap' from a 'photograph' and how we plan to equip with you skills for making this wonderful transition. There will be a slide show presentation, followed by a briefing on some of the skills we'll put into practice for the rest of the day

Head out around some of London's more interesting spots to put into practice skills discussed in the morning. You'll have a combination of in the field demonstrations and talks, individual and group projects, before heading off for a quick lunch to discuss how the morning has progressed

Lunch

Continue with shooting after lunch, developing skills of visualising and 'seeing creatively'.

Head back to workshop teaching location for review of ireview and summary of the day. The day concludes towards 6pm

Optional evening photography and dinner together

Sunday 18 May 2008 - WORKSHOP DAY 2

Meet in morning to head out for some shooting in central London. Today we'll be pushing your creative skills forward a few notches, ensuring that you are comfortable in putting into practice the skills we've been looking at

Break for quick lunch and discussion of morning's shoot so far

Chance for participants to do their own 'assignment' bringing together all the skills over the two days

Head back to teaching location to look at some basic 'digital' concepts, review final images and assignments and conclude the teaching

Optional dinner together

## Accommodation

For those needing accommodation, we can recommend the following website:

LondonTown.com. (<http://www.londontown.com/>)

For details on the exact area in which the daily teaching will be based from, please contact us directly at [info@vspworkshops.com](mailto:info@vspworkshops.com) for further details.

## Travel

Teaching starts at 9am on Saturday 17th May, therefore if you're travelling into London from far away, we recommend arriving on the day before if possible. Teaching will conclude by 6pm on Sunday 18th May

## Companions

Attendance on the workshops activities is only for those fully participating in the course

# The Photography

## Photography

This workshop is intended for those who are making or about to make the single biggest transition they will ever make as a photographer. The change from taking 'holiday snaps' to actually starting to making photographs is very important one. It is the moment when you start to realise that simply lifting up the camera and taking any old shot, is not quite good enough. It's the moment when you start to look at your holiday pictures and wonder why what you saw



and experienced has not been captured in your images.

For this workshop we'll be using the city of London as our visual classroom. Outside of the theory, we'll be spending the majority of time outside, taking photographs, discussing techniques, doing demonstrations and getting you to see and feel the difference in results when you start to 'construct' and think about your photography.

## Teaching

The teaching spans across two full days. It's about 70% practical out-in-the-field shooting, and 30% classroom discussions and slide-shows. We'll help you learn new techniques that will assist your ability to see potential photographs, and give you some creative techniques for making your images more interesting and more original. Whilst out in the field, we'll be visiting some interesting areas of London, putting into practice some of the real techniques that you can take away with you and apply on your next holiday or photo trip.

During the classroom sessions, the instructor will use a laptop, and digital projector when necessary. A laptop is not mandatory for this workshop - nor is an SLR camera - just a desire to take better photographs and a camera.

Some of the topics, issues and skills you can expect to cover over the two days include:

Composition - why it's so important and ways to improve your skills

Seeing your surroundings - learn to notice the visual qualities around you such as colours, textures, shapes

Why are some images more successful - helping you understand why some images work better than others so you can apply this to your own skill-set

Getting to grips with digital - we'll help demystify the world of digital photography, helping you understand the fundamentals necessary to start taking more successful photographs

Travel photography tips - plenty of advice on ways to be more effective when taking photographs on your holidays from researching locations, shooting at different times of the day to taking amazing family shots on your travels

## Is this for me?

This workshop is open to all skill levels, but principally designed for those in the early days of their photography. This is the perfect opportunity for those who are about to take a holiday or trip somewhere, and want to equip themselves with some real skills they can apply and see noticeable results with.

You will need to bring along your own camera, preferably digital, as well as memory cards.

## Inspiration

### Introduction

Below you will find a collection of photographers, writers and films chosen to awaken your senses. They may inspire you about the location or they may just intrigue you. Either way please use this as an insight into the experiences and impressions of others. International travel is so easy these days. The pace at which one travels and 'sees' the world gets faster and faster. If you feel like it, take a moment to slow the process down. Some of the films are fun and light-hearted - others a little more serious.

### Photographers

Henri Cartier-Bresson

Steve McCurry

Elliot Erwit

Ferdinando Scianna

Neveda Wier

Joel Sartore

Jim Richardson

### Books



'Learning to See Creatively' Bryan Peterson  
'Photos with Impact' Tom Mackie

## Movies

.

## Forums

We have our own online forum that over the years has proven to be a very popular and useful way of not just keeping in touch after a workshop, but also before. It can be a fascinating source of information for those considering their first workshop with VSP. You will need to register to join the forum, and we recommend the following two sections

Ask a past VSP Workshops participant (<http://www.vspworkshops.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?board=feedback/>)

Discussion board for all participants booked on the 'From Holiday Snaps to Photographs' Workshop (<http://www.vspworkshops.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1203102509/0>)

## Testimonials

"Your Workshop was fantastic - beneficial to the novice as the seasoned veteran. A wide variety of shooting opportunities and activities. Daily critique session were incredibly helpful, seeing what other photographers, hearing what everyone thought of other's photos. I would recommend the VSP Workshop to anyone who wants "total immersion" experience in photography"

Nancy, USA, 2007

"Well, "the experience of a life-time" doesn't even come close to describing this workshop. The planning that went into it must have been immense and intense; the result was simply "The Best".

Richard, UK, 2006

"I came away with much more than you can imagine. You literally opened my eyes to a new world. I will never look through a camera viewfinder again in the same way as before. You set your students at ease, clearly state your objectives and fairly assess the outcome"

James, USA, 2004

"Not only did I go home with by far more excellent shots than expected, I even met a lot of friends and it was a pleasure being able to share my time with all of them. Hope I'll be able to attend one of VSP's workshops in the future.."

Josef, Germany, 2005

"I run my own company and I know how demanding it is to offer good customer service and how important it is to provide it. Every VSP Workshops I so far attended has always been better than I expected. I could learn a lot about customer service from VSP as it always exceed its participants expectations.



**VSP**Workshops

Witek, Spain, 2006

"Excellent value! Learned a lot - enjoyed the relaxed environment. Very much appreciated the personal attention. Great organization. Looking forward to more workshops. VSP works for me! Thank you."  
Dan, USA, 2007