

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SWE07352 MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY

Tutor: TRACY HALLETT

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER – SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Close-up and macro photography requires the adoption of a childlike curiosity. By studying a subject in detail you begin to understand its intricate beauty – you notice the subtle curve of a shell on a beach, for example, or the complementary colours of two flowers in a garden. What's more, by remaining receptive you allow the subject to dictate your approach leading to visually arresting images that encourage the viewer to see the world anew. Flowers, insects, intimate landscapes, and manmade objects will all be covered, with tips and tricks to help you perfect your technique and create show stopping pictures.

If, for example, the shell has a flaw that threatens to spoil your picture, you can adjust yourself or your technique to play down or eliminate the imperfection. Similarly, if flowers are blowing in the wind, you can create a homemade windbreak to arrest their movement. These are just some of the many techniques we will be exploring during the course.

While we must learn to respond to the subject, we must also understand how to control as many of the variables as possible. Through a series of practical exercises, we will learn to make the best of opportunities presented to us, resulting in unique, meaningful pictures.

One of the many joys of close-up and macro photography is the size of the stage on which we perform. While landscape photographers sweat and stress over the shape of a tree or the condition of foreground flowers, close-up and macro photographers have the advantage of working on a much smaller scale. During the course we will learn how to maximise the potential of this mini stage.

Close-up and macro photography is not without its challenges. Many great images appear to have been created without effort, but in reality they are the result of good photographic technique, combined with personal style and vision. During the course we will learn how to use the equipment at our disposal, whether a top-of-the-range DSLR, compact or camera phone, to best communicate our vision.

LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

A subject-focused course that is delivered to suit any level of experience from beginner to advanced practitioner. A structured start is followed by guided independent practice.

To succeed on this course:

Students need a basic understanding of how their camera works, a lens that allows close focusing, and a tripod or other firm support. We may be carrying out basic adjustments in Photoshop/Lightroom, but no previous knowledge is required, however you need to be familiar with using a computer.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Tracy Hallett is a former editor of *Outdoor Photography* magazine, and currently works as Technique Editor at *Amateur Photographer magazine*. She has written various photography books, including *Close-up & Macro Photography* (which was recently translated into Chinese and French). Her work has been exhibited at The Photographers' Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery in London.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 6 October

From 4.00pm Arrival for residential students
6.45pm Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner

Arrival day continued: Friday 6 October

7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm–9.00pm	First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course. Short introduction to macro photography, with slideshow to demonstrate key points.

Other days: Saturday 7 October

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working: workshops are available up to 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored.

Departure day: Sunday 8 October

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish
3.30pm	Tea then departure

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

You are required to bring a digital camera and lens (a dedicated macro lens is preferable, but any lens that allows close focusing and manual focus will suffice), charged battery (and preferably a spare), plenty of clear memory cards, suitable clothing for outdoor sessions (preferably warm, waterproof trousers).

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

Available from the Shop:

USB memory sticks

Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:

Fully working digital camera or camera phone and lenses (where appropriate)

Fully charged camera batteries (and charger if possible)

Camera/phone-to-computer cables, camera instruction manual (if available)

Tripod (if available), any accessories you commonly use for photography

Pen and paper

Clothing suitable for working outdoors: walking boots or waterproof shoes, waterproof trousers (if possible)

USB stick, plenty of empty memory cards

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. There are no health and safety restrictions on access to this studio/teaching space in the absence of the tutor. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.