



Skye Photography Workshop  
Isle of Skye, Scotland, UK  
May 28 – June 3, 2017

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Over the years many of us have remained connected via multiple common interests, including photography. Through my workshops, we have also shared an appreciation for the rewards and challenges of photographing the landscape.

Two years ago, after falling in love with Scotland and especially the Isle of Skye in 2008, Catherine and I were fortunate to take up part-time residence on Skye. The island is a most amazing place!

Ranked as one of the most beautiful locations in Scotland - perfect for star gazing and northern lights, rugged coastlines, constantly changing light and weather – Skye is really a photographer's paradise. To get a taste of what you will find on Skye, a company put together a video promoting it as a movie location. To view the YouTube video, [click here](#). To see some of the images I have made over the past few years, [click here](#).

In the spirit of my past meetings, I will be conducting a photography workshop on Skye from May 28 – June 3, 2017. However, unlike some of my past meetings, this workshop will focus solely on photography. Photographers of all photographic skill level are welcome – no one has too little or too much experience to attend. I will be present to provide photographic guidance during each outing, and evenings will be spent processing the day's images using Adobe® Lightroom. And no worries about your Lightroom skill level either!

Our "base of operations" will be the Lodge at the Columba Center on the shores of Staffin Bay on the northeast coast of Skye, we have a unique opportunity to host the workshop there.

Skye is a somewhat remote destination. The Lodge, a manor house with views towards the North Atlantic, provides gracious surroundings equipped with WIFI. No fast food is available and traditional hotels are approximately 20 miles away in the capital city of Portree. Nor are there typical tourist attractions... instead you will find spectacular sea views, craggy mountains, clouds and mist and rainbows, panoramic pastureland and whitewashed croft houses... every turn in the road leads to new visual adventure!

The cost of the workshop of \$2995.00, which includes your lodging for the entire week, three meals a day, photographic instruction and van transportation to all photographic sites. Attendance is limited to 6 participants.

A deposit of \$1,000 will secure your place. Once we have all five spots filled, I will send you an email for the balance. To register for the workshop, [click here](#)

Hopefully I have piqued your interest in joining me on the beautiful Isle of Skye! Attached you will find a PDF with more details, and as always please feel free to call me for additional information.

Best regards,

Mark  
404-386-5676  
markmaio@mindspring.com



## Isle of Skye Workshop

May 28 - June 3, 2017

Looking forward to seeing you in June  
and sharing the beauty of the Isle of Skye!



### TRANSPORTATION

#### **Flying from the US:**

You will have a choice of flying into either Glasgow or Edinburgh International airports.

Drive time (approximately 5 hours) is the same from either airport.

One third of the drive from Edinburgh will be on a major highway while the entire drive from Glasgow will be on two lane country roads. The more scenic drive is from Glasgow although all of Scotland is beautiful.

**We need five registrants signed up for the workshop to be a "go".**  
**DO NOT book your airfare until you get the go ahead from me.**



### **Rental Cars:**

Both airports feature rental cars from the major companies.

Most US car insurance companies do not cover you while driving internationally.

Almost all rental cars in the UK are manual shift. In fact, when you rent online, there aren't any options to choose an automatic. I have been given an automatic on a few occasions but when I have asked for one at the rental counter it has increased the rental price by a factor of two.

As attendees register, I will start an email list so attendees can coordinate flights in and sharing rental cars, if desired. If you do share a car and each of you plans on driving, the rental company will assess a "second driver" charge.

### **Driving in Scotland:**

For those of you from the US, in the UK the steering wheel is on the right side of the car and you drive on the left side of the road.

Roundabouts are used extensively in Scotland and are probably the one thing it took me a while to get familiar with. Not only are you driving on the opposite side of the road, but you are merging clockwise into a roundabout with from two to five exits. You must use your GPS!!

### **GPS:**

A GPS loaded with UK maps and voice directions is essential. Most addresses in Scotland do not have a street number but use a postcode as their main address.

### **Single-Track Roads:**

Once you get to the Isle of Skye (or other rural parts of Scotland), you will encounter single-track roads. These are one-lane roads that accommodate two-way traffic.

When you meet a car coming toward you, one car pulls over into what is called a "passing place" on the side of the road. If the closest passing place is on the left, you pull over. If the passing place is on the right, they pull over and let you pass by.

Many times a car will pull over and flash their lights signaling they want you to drive on by. For more information on driving these roads, check out this link:

<http://www.scotlandinfo.eu/driving-single-track-roads-in-scotland/>

### **Transportation During the Workshop:**

I will be providing a van and we will go as a group to our photographic sites each day.



## **ACCOMODATIONS**

Quiraing Lodge  
Staffin  
Isle of Skye  
IV51 9JY



Quiraing Lodge is set in a stunning location on the ocean in the village of Staffin on the Trotternish Peninsula on the north end of Skye.

The Quiraing Lodge is a private residence run by the charity Columba 1400. Proceeds from the lodging goes back into the charity. The top floor living area is reserved for the owners of the Lodge.

The rooms we will be using all have an en suite shower or bath. We have access to the first two floors of the lodge including the kitchen area and two living rooms, one with a TV. There is free Wi-Fi access in each of the living rooms. Rooms will be assigned after you register.

**Schedule:** We will meet at 7:00PM on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> in the spacious kitchen of the Lodge for an opening reception. There will also be a closing reception on Friday evening, June 10<sup>th</sup>. A detailed schedule for the week will be distributed once you arrive on Skye.

**Sunrise/Sunset:** 4:30am/10:15pm



## **FOOD / MEALS**

### **Meals:**

Monday - Friday meals are included with the workshop for all attendees staying at the Lodge.

We will have a continental breakfast each morning and a box lunch to take with us while we are photographing.

Snacks and drinks will also be provided during the day.

Dinner will be together as a group at the Columba Center dining room each evening.

While we will have access to the kitchen in the Lodge we will not be allowed to do any cooking. We can use the refrigerator to store any personal drinks and of course I am expecting a few of us might bring a bottle of whiskey to share!

There will be an opening reception with light food on Sunday evening.

Many restaurants, stores and gas stations on Skye are closed on Sunday. There won't be anything open in Staffin on Sunday so get gas and any personal food in Portree, the Capitol of Skye, which is 20 miles south of our location. There is a pub on the Portree square and a few restaurants scattered throughout the town.

The closest fast food is 3 ½ hours away so don't plan on doing drive through.

There are two Co-op grocery stores open on Sunday in Portree. The smaller one will be on your left as you drive through town. The larger store will be a bit out of the way and will require you to look it up on your GPS.

### **ANY SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS?**

**PLEASE NOTIFY MARK AT: [markmaio@mindspring.com](mailto:markmaio@mindspring.com)**



### **Mark's Contact Information**

Mark Maio.      404-386-5676 cell      Email: [markmaio@mindspring.com](mailto:markmaio@mindspring.com)



## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Liability Waiver:** On Sunday evening you will be asked to sign a liability waiver.

**A good flashlight:** Skye is in one of the darkest areas of Scotland, so a flashlight will come in handy.

**Extra camera batteries and charger.**

**Tripod:** There will be many opportunities to photograph both the ocean and waterfalls, and maybe even the night sky, so having a tripod to do long exposures is essential.

**Camera Back Pack:** Many of the locations we will be photographing at will require some walking. A few, if you choose, will also involve some moderately steep paths. The best way to carry your equipment (and keep it dry in the event of rain), will be a camera case designed as a backpack. Forget cumbersome camera cases!

**Electrical Power:** Power in the UK is 220V. Most laptop computers and battery chargers for your camera and mobile phones can be used with 220V without any special converters but you will need some three-prong UK adapter plugs. Bring a few!

**Portable external hard drive:** So you can make backups of your files someplace other than your laptop. In each of the workshops I have taught the past seven years, someone has copied their image files to their laptop only, erased their storage card and then had their laptop crash, losing all their images.

**A card reader:** Specific for the particular storage card your camera uses.

**Software:** Although this is mainly a “shooting and image review” workshop, there will be times when you may want to work on your image files, and I will be happy to help you.

**Adobe Lightroom:** I use Lightroom as my main software program to process “RAW” image files. For the most part, I use Lightroom for 98% of the work I need to do on my images. For the other 2%, I use Photoshop.

**Dress:** Rugged casual, as there will be photography opportunities requiring hiking, please dress with that in mind. A good pair of hiking shoes/boots is recommended. It is never hot on Skye, so leave the shorts and sandals at home.

**Weather on Skye:** June days average 60/65F with cool nights around 50F. There is always the possibility of rain. Please bring a raincoat, a hat and some way to carry your camera and keep it dry. The warmest temperature ever recorded on the isle was 74 degrees Fahrenheit.



**I look forward to seeing you on Skye!**

**We want you to have an amazing experience - If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact me.**



The small map is of Scotland with the Isle of Skye in red. The larger map shows where the workshop is located on the island.

