

Fall in the Smokies

October 24-29, 2010

The fall color of the Great Smoky Mountains is something not to be missed. The bright yellow, orange, and reds of autumn create opportunities for brilliant landscapes. The wildlife is also at its peak; the bears are active in a final push for food, the deer and elk are beginning the rut, and wild turkeys and hawks seem to be everywhere. Fall is prime time in the Smokies.

Our workshop will include the scenic areas of the Smokies times to get the best photographs and to manage around the large crowds that visit the park. The emphasis will be on the western side including Cades Cove, but we will travel to each of the major areas of the park.

Tentative Itinerary

This is a tentative itinerary based on the expected timing of leaf color. In the fall, the weather in the Smokies is variable. We could get beautiful sunny days and vibrant colors. Or we could get rain – which saturates images, fills the streams, and creates wonderful fog. We could even get snow and ice at high elevations. We will adjust the schedule based on conditions to take advantage of the best photo opportunities in the park, so this schedule is likely to change.

Arrival – Sunday, October 24

We arrive in Townsend by 4:00 PM to in time to get acquainted and then head out for an early dinner. Over dinner we'll review the plan for the week and have a short workshop with tips and suggestions to help get the most from your experience.

Monday, October 25

Cades Cove / Tremont

Our first day will be spent in Cades Cove. We'll start the day early with a sunrise shoot in Cades Cove. Cades Cove offers a wide range of locations, so our plan will be to spend the morning making our way around the loop road with stops along the way for wildlife, historic buildings, and a range of landscapes. Expect to see morning fog, brilliant fall color, and plenty of wildlife including deer and wild turkeys. The Tremont area is nearby. We'll take advantage of lighting conditions and shoot some of the classic stream shots with fall color and close ups of leaves.

Tuesday, October 26

Clingmans Dome / Cataloochee Valley

This morning we'll get an early start with a sunrise shoot at the highest elevations in the park. Temperatures will be chilly, but with luck we'll see a great sunrise. Following sunrise, we'll head to Cataloochee Valley with some short stops along the way. Cataloochee Valley is like a smaller version of Cades Cove – but much more isolated. The old buildings and stream shots will make for some unique images. Cataloochee Valley is the prime area for elk in the Smokies.

For sunset we'll head back to the high elevations for a classic Smokies view. This is going to be a long day, but worth it.

Wednesday, October 27

Foothills Parkway / Tremont

We'll plan for a sunrise shoot that includes nice fog in the valleys. After sunrise we'll pick up a quick breakfast, and then head into the Tremont area for photography for early morning images of fall color and reflections. The lush moss and dogwood trees provide a wide range of compositions and I'm sure you'll want to spend more time. During the afternoon we'll travel along Little River Road for a short hike to Laurel Falls with stops along the way. For sunset we'll head to Cades Cove for expansive views of the fading light.

Thursday, October 28

Clingman's Dome / Roaring Fork / Greenbrier /

Sunrise in the Smokies is always different. Today we'll be up early and head to the high elevations of the park for sunrise. Following sunrise, we'll work our way down the mountain ahead for the soft light and fog on the mountain streams. After a hearty breakfast, we'll head into the Roaring Fork area. We'll have a chance to create unique images of fall color around the old cabins of the early settlers. In the afternoon we'll have a bit of a change of pace while we head to the Greenbrier area for stream photography. In the late afternoon we'll look for reflections of the colorful foliage in the stream and puddles on the rocks. For sunset we'll make our way back to the high elevations of the park for the classic Smokies sunset. At this point it's been a long day, so we'll treat ourselves to a nice dinner.

Friday, October 29

Cades Cove

This is the last day of the workshop and is only a half day. We'll be up for sunrise in Cades Cove. We have different locations for the morning shoot and will take advantage of leaf color, fog, and skies to create our own unique impressions. By noon we'll conclude the workshop and depart with lots of images, new skills and knowledge, and new friends.

Notes on activities: On several days we are planning short hikes. One of the hikes is around two miles and would be rated easy in terms of difficulty. We also expect to have extensive photography around streams. Waterproof boots or non-slip boots are useful but not required as long as you take your time and use good judgment.

Hotel

Townsend - 5 nights

- Suggestion –
- Check In Sunday 4/21

- Check Out Friday 4/25

Price: \$800 - \$700 if paid in full by July 15, 2010
Deposit of \$200 to hold reservation
Balance due by August 15, 2010
Refundable in full until September 15, 2010
Limited to 7 photographers

By Check to:
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