



Tao of Photography Workshops

Ernst Haas--referred to by some photo historians as the father of modern color photography--said, *"It is all about finding the 'ah-ha'."* Henri Cartier-Bresson--one of the all-time greats-- said he was perennially in search of *"the decisive moment"*. There is no formula, no tried and true method that can get each of us there. It is a process of ongoing discovery and the intense desire to really see the world around us that pulls us forward. Spending time in the company of photographers who share this desire, and those who have been on the same journey for most of their lives, holds out the possibility of discovering how we learn and this opens the door to continual growth, in terms of our vision, and therefore our art.

Mission Statement: To meet each participant at their current skill-level and support them in moving to the next level. The workshops are about learning to teach yourself how to deepen the way you see the world around you. It begins with entering into the present moment and includes seeing light as an artistic element in all pictures. Participants should have a decent digital camera. It need not be a sophisticated tool worthy of a professional photographer. (Please ask if you have questions about what constitutes suitable equipment) But, whatever you have, you will need to already be familiar with its features and how to use it, and how to get your images into a computer. Basic image manipulation skills are a plus, but not a critical requisite.

What are our workshops about: A Digital Photography Workshop – Critiquing digital images and focusing less on the intellectual/technical process, and more on the creative flow of the perceptual, i.e. ‘right brain’ process of ‘seeing beyond seeing’. It is also about adventuring into geographic and culturally intriguing locations off the beaten path.

Where are these locations:

We will be offering 4 workshops starting in Fall 2009 thru May 2010.

Complete details will be listed on PanTerra Gallery's website – www.panterragallery.com

Cochise Stronghold, Dragoon Mountains AZ – Nov. 2009

Chiang Mai, Thailand – Feb. 2010

Mata Ortiz, Mexico – April 2010

San Jose, Quenca & Vilcabamba, Ecuador – May 2010

Who: For photographers of all levels who want to deepen their creative photographic vision and skills and participate in an interactive group experience.

Facilitator: Chuck Feil – curator of photography for PanTerra Gallery, Bisbee, AZ .

Chuck has been leading these workshops for the past two years. He brings to the table 45 years as a professional photographer who has 11 published books of his Aerial photography. To learn more about Chuck go to this link: http://www.panterragallery.com/feil/feil_bio.php



Meditation & Photography in the Cochise Stronghold, Dragoon Mtns. AZ

November 12 -15 2009

This workshop will be located in the heart of the Cochise Stronghold where Cochise the leader of the Chiricahua Apache stayed off the U.S. Army in the late 1800's

<http://www.cochisestronghold.com/cochisestronghold/history.html>

This location is ideal for the focus of this workshop, combining natural beauty, contemplation, and creative visual awareness.

Chuck Feil - will be the facilitator that will guide you through the four day journey of discovering your inner eye and translating it into digital media including his ever popular evening critiques.

John Yates - has been a practicing Buddhist Meditator for 30 yrs. John will guide us into a state of higher awareness as we explore this sacred ground with our cameras.

Bernd Geh - has extensive knowledge using Adobe lightroom (LR) and will do a Thursday evening November 12th presentation...some of the topics covered are:

Workflow (getting pictures onto the computer and how to organize them with LR)

Excursion into color calibration and raw vs. jpg

The tabs of LR (Library, development, print, slideshow and web)

Development possibilities with a number of examples (White balance, contrast, local adjustments, color manipulation, noise reduction, etc) Q/A session at the end.

Workshop Itinerary

Thursday November 12th – We will meet at the Cochise Stronghold Retreat between noon and 3:00PM

Location: Cochise Stronghold, AZ in a sustainable environment of living/working space, organic food, and amazing scenery. <http://www.cochisestrongholdbb.com/sustain.php>

Thursday Evening presentation by Bernd Geh - A hands on demonstration of **Adobe Lightroom**.

Friday November 13th – Morning activities of obtaining your focus for the day by doing both sitting and walking meditations focusing on different aspects of the landscape. The entire day we will be spent hiking the trails and exploring the special spirit of Cochise Stronghold. Evening critiques of participants work and developing the multimedia show.

Saturday November 14th – We will continue our meditation practice in the morning and continue exploring different aspects of the Stronghold that speak of its special qualities with a focus on wildlife today. Evening Critiques of days work.

Sunday November 15th – We wrap up our workshop with a multimedia show presentation.

Workshop Fees

The cost for the workshop is **\$595.00** per person

This **includes all lodging, meals and fees** (Wine & Liquor is **not** included).

Space is limited as we only have **12** slots.

**A \$100.00 non refundable deposit will hold a slot for you payable to VFA Publishing, PO Box 1463, Bisbee, AZ 85603 no later than August 15, 2009.
The balance will be due on October 1, 2009**

A multimedia presentation will be created by the group so that you can take the experience home with you to share with family & friends.





Journey to Chiang Mai Thailand (Exploring the Exotic)

February 1 - 12, 2010

Located more than 700km northwest of Bangkok... This idealize their beloved northern capital as a quaint, moated and walled city surrounded by mountains with legendary, mystical attributes. In reality, Chiang Mai is a dynamic and modern city, which has successfully managed to combine its rich history and traditions with its increasingly modern side.

This workshop will focus on participants freedom to explore the City of Chiang Mai or take one of the numerous excursions that are available through local tour operators such as: Thai cooking classes, Elephant safari, Night Bazaar, Doi Suthep Temple, Day trips to Long Neck villages, and the annual Chiang Mai Flower festival that is a photographers dream opportunity to photograph the many Thai cultural groups in their traditional garb.

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/thailand/chiang-mai-province/chiang-mai/history>

Chuck Feil - will be the facilitator that will guide you through the twelve day journey of discovering your inner eye and translating it into digital media with his evening critiques.

A multimedia presentation will be created by the group so that you can take the experience home with you to share with family & friends.

Dates: February 1 – 12, 2010

Location: Chiang Mai, Thailand

Workshop fees: \$2,900. Airfare from Los Angeles to Chiang Mai, lodging, travel insurance, and workshop fees.

It does not include meals (restaurants are plentiful, and varied... allows the participant to choose their own diet) or excursions.

Upgrade to business class seating is available at an additional fee.

This workshop is limited to 12 participants on a first come basis.

Terms: \$1,000. non-refundable deposit to hold a space by **September 1, 2009**

\$1,900. balance of workshop fee due on or before **December 1, 2009**



Mata Ortiz

**Potters, Ruins, and Customs in an old Mexico setting
April 1-4, 2010**

This will be our third trek down to this quintessential Mexican village of potters and artisans. We always do this workshop over the Easter weekend when we can experience the ceremonies of Samana Santa, demonstrations of pottery making in a local studio, exploring the ancient Paquime ruins, and Easter brunch in the rustic kitchen of Hacienda de San Diego. It is four days of Mexican culture and photographic opportunities.

Chuck Feil - will be the facilitator that will guide you through the four day journey of discovering your inner eye and translating it into digital media including his ever popular evening critiques..

A multimedia presentation will be created by the group so that you can take the experience home with you to share with family & friends.

Workshop Itinerary

April 1 - 4, 2010 (Easter Weekend)

Thursday April 1st – We will depart early afternoon from Bisbee, AZ. in a van to Casas Grandes, Mexico arriving early evening.

Lodging & Meals at "Casa del Nopal" http://www.casasgrandesmexico.com/casa_del_nopal_suites.htm
This is a historic adobe complex that has been renovated and updated by Spencer and Emi McCallum, the famed duo who put Mata Ortiz on the map.
Spencer McCallum will give us a talk about his discovery and history of the Mata Ortiz potters.

http://www.parobs.org/index.php?module=article&view=68&MMN_position=74:74

Friday April 2nd - We will go to Mata Ortiz and spend the entire day photographing the community, religious festivals, and Pottery studios.
You will have the opportunity to meet the potters and photograph their process. There will be opportunities to purchase pottery at reasonable prices.
That evening a meal will be cooked for us at the Casa del Nopal complex where we will critique the day's photographs and begin the process of putting together a multimedia show combining indigenous music with our images from the day.

Saturday April 3rd - Casas Grandes and the archaeological site of Paquime will be the subjects for our photography.
<http://www.desertusa.com/mag00/aug/stories/paquime.html>
The evening will be spent with a meal at the Casa del Nopal complex and critique of the day's photographs and continuation of the multimedia project.



Sunday April 4th - "Hacienda De San Diego"

<http://www.mexicofile.com/haciendadesandiegochihuahua.htm>

The morning will be spent photographing in this historic complex. Lunch will be provided at the Hacienda before our departure back to Bisbee.



Workshop Fees

The cost for the workshop is **\$595.00** per person

This **includes all transportation, lodging, meals and fees.**

(Wine & Liquor is **not** included)

Space is limited as we only have 12 slots. If you are interested email **chuckfeil@gmail.com** and send a **\$100.00 non refundable deposit** payable to VFA Publishing, PO Box 1463, Bisbee, AZ 85603 **no later than December 1, 2009**

The balance will be due on March 1, 2010

A **valid passport** will also be **required** to enter Mexico.

Dates: April 1 – 4, 2010

Location: Casas Grandes and Mata Ortiz, Mexico

Facilitators: Chuck Feil

Workshop fees: \$595.00 includes Lodging in a historic adobe complex, meals, and workshop fees

This workshop is limited to 12 participants on a first come basis.

Terms: \$100. non-refundable deposit to hold a space by **December 1, 2009**

\$495. balance of workshop fee due on or before **March 1, 2010**



Journey to Ecuador **'Exploring the Golden Light'** **May 1-10, 2010**

Journey to Ecuador will fill your digital cards with the magic of light, place, and wonderment. Chuck has strong relationships with the places and people we will be visiting. Traveling with one who knows the lay of the land provides you the freedom to experience the environment at hand without worrying about the details and concerns of traveling in a foreign country.

This **10 day** workshop (including travel days) will take you from dry forests, rainforests, and beaches on the coast of Ecuador, to the 'Golden Light' of the Andes in Vilcabamba, Ecuador.

On the coast we will stay and work at "Samai" an eco-retreat nestled in the rainforest just above the Ecuadorian coastline. www.sacred-journey.com

Accommodations are comfortable and the food is irresistible. A large covered outdoor conference center is ideal for our evening photo critiques. We will have 3 full days of photographing rainforest, beach environments, and a day trip to the fishing villages of Salango and Puerto López. The charming Tania Durant will be our host and interpreter during our stay at Samai.

On the 4th day we will travel along the coastline to Guayaquil and make our way to the colonial city of Cuenca. Spending two nights and one day visiting hat factories, markets, and exploring the cobbled stone streets of this magnificent City. On day six we will be transported to Vilcabamba in the valley of the 'Golden Light'.

Hosted by Brian O'Leary (a former astronaut) and his artist wife Meredith Miller at their amazing retreat Montesueños <http://www.montesuenos.org/>

Spending 3 full days photographing the landscape and people will only tantalize your creative taste buds for more of the same and the yearning to return. Chuck guarantees that all of you will come back home with images to drool over for the next year! There will be opportunities to take horse back trips into the Andes or settle into Montesueños... being still and watching the ever changing light and evening show of rainbows dropping into your lap. Chuck has planned many exciting assignments for this workshop with nightly critiques, and the opportunity to put a multimedia show together of every ones work at the end of our experience to take home and share with friends and compatriots.

The journey home will take us back through the historic city of Loja and on to Guayaquil where we will catch our flight back home.



View of the Ecuador coast from Samai



View of the Andes from Montesueños

The Details:

Dates: May 1 – 10, 2010

Location: Samai, Cuenca, Montesuenos, and Vilcabamba, Ecuador

Facilitators: Chuck Feil

Workshop fees: \$2,700. includes... Airfare R/T LAX or MIA, ground transportation and internal flights, lodging, meals, travel insurance, and workshop fees. Does not include additional excursions or alcoholic beverages.

This workshop is limited to 12 participants on a first come basis.

Terms: \$1,000. non-refundable deposit to hold a space by **December 15, 2009**

\$1,700 balance of workshop fee due on or before **February 1, 2010**

Make checks out to: **VFA Publishing - PO Box 124, Winthrop, ME 04364**

Go to this link <http://www.photodex.com/sharing/viewshow?fl=3108618&alb=0>

to experience a multimedia show put together by the participants of this past years Ecuador workshop. Once you have connected to the site simply download the photodex installer and click on the title page. I want to thank Dave Cornelius for using his skills in uploading this show so that we can share it with you. On the menu you will be able to view it either as a widescreen or 4x3 TV format.

“Thanks so much for the journey, not only to the places we saw, but also for the people we met. You did a super job in planning, organizing, and executing the trip. I think it was as much a personal growth experience for me as a photography education. Look forward to future adventures.”

-- Linda Guinter after attending the Ecuador Workshop 2009