

Gerlach Nature Photography
Grand Tetons National Park
Winter Photography Workshop

Nov. 29 – Dec. 5, 2020

Dec. 6 – 12, 2020

Dec. 13 – 19, 2020

Price: \$2800 One Participant

\$2400 Two Participants sharing one suite

Limited to only 5 Participants

With John Gerlach and Dixie Calderone

www.gerlachnaturephoto.com

Gerlach Nature Photography is an Authorized Permittee of the National Park Service



Figure 1 At no other time of the year are bull moose easier to find and photograph. During December they feed in the sagebrush flats where they are easy to spot!

Grand Teton National Park is known for the stunning landscape with the magnificent mountains towering above the rolling hills and rivers of western Wyoming. You'll shoot plenty of exquisite landscape photos under the expert guidance of John and Dixie as they teach you the best photo techniques to use for producing outstanding images. In addition to the landscape, the bountiful wildlife is an important part of this workshop experience. Plenty of moose are available to photograph and finding groups of bulls is likely. We may photograph elk and bison, and perhaps river otters along Flat creek. Many species of ducks and trumpeter swans swim in the open creek waters. And in the National Elk Refuge, bighorn sheep are common and frequently feed near the road where they are often within close photo range. In fact, it is a rule to prevent the sheep from licking the salt off your car!



Figure 2 Bighorn sheep are plentiful on Miller Butte. Each morning they descend the butte to feed on grass next to the access road. They are quite approachable!

John and Dixie live in Idaho where they view the Grand Tetons from their home. We photograph in the Tetons frequently and know the area thoroughly. From having led hundreds of field workshops on photography, we are skilled at guiding groups of eager photographers to optimum locations to perfect their photo skills, shoot memorable images, and above all, to simply enjoy the grandeur of magnificent Grand Tetons National Park.

John and Dixie believe in teaching during all photo workshops and tours. We are always offering suggestions for composition, light, exposure, focus stacking, and eagerly explain the best photo techniques.

Key Photo Skills you will learn:

- How to expose snow easily and quickly using manual exposure
- The best camera techniques for shooting landscape images
- The enormous benefit of focus stacking the landscape
- How to expose wildlife, especially wildlife with dark fur in the snow
- How to photograph wildlife to produce stunning compositions
- How to use long lenses to make sharp wildlife images
- Mastering light – color, direction, contrast to produce the best images
- How to focus stack and process the stack with Helicon Focus
- How to use long lenses properly for best results
- How to AF microadjust your camera and lens
- How to process images and combine focus stacks with Helicon Focus
- Questions are always welcome!



Figure 3 Sagebrush flats are the typical place you find bull moose in early December near Jackson.

Field Trips

We all travel together in our Ford Expedition Max SUV. Each morning field trip begins before sunrise, so we are on location as the sun rises. . Evening field trips begin about three hours before sunset. We seek wildlife photo opportunities in the evening and good location for evening light that hopefully fills the western sky with crimson clouds.

Average December Temperatures

High: 30

Low: 11

Sunrise and Sunset

Sunrise: 7:32

Sunset: 5:14

What's Included:

- Intensive photo instruction from John and Dixie in the classroom and the field
- All meals beginning with dinner on the first night and ending with breakfast on the final day of the workshop
- 6 nights lodging at the Lexington Hotel
- All ground transportation in our Ford Expedition Max
- Teaching slide programs in the early afternoon or after dinner

Not Included:

- Airfare
- Items of a personal nature, such as alcoholic drinks
- Trip cancellation insurance
- Park pass to Grand Tetons National Park

You do **not** need to rent a car. Our hotel offers free shuttles to and from the Jackson airport. On field trips, we all travel together in our 2019 Ford Expedition Max. We have taken care of everything for you. Fly into Jackson, rest up, join us for the first evening meeting and dinner. At the first meeting, we explain the workshop goals, key photo strategies, and describe the schedule for the week.

Price and Payments

Price:

\$2800 for a private suite

\$2400 each - two participants sharing a suite

Deposit: \$1000

Payment:

Payment can be made by check and made payable to: Gerlach Nature Photography. Mail check to John Gerlach/2632 N. Marr Rd/ Columbus, IN 47203. To use a credit card, call Dixie Calderone at (812) 350-0799.

A \$1000 per-person **deposit** holds your space in this photo workshop. Full Payment is due 120 days prior to the start of the workshop.

Refunds and Cancellation Policy

If written Cancellation is Received:

90 days or prior:

89 to 61 days prior:

60 or fewer days:

Cancellation Fee:

100% of deposit

50% of entire trip fee

100% of entire trip fee

We strongly suggest buying trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment.

Since these workshops only accept five participants, they sell out quickly. Contact us first to make sure space is available.

John Gerlach

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208-320-0951

Dixie Calderone

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812-350-0799



Figure 4 Even a muskrat living at Flat Creek is a joy to photograph.

Itinerary:

Day 1: Fly to Jackson, WY (JAC). The hotel offers a free shuttle to and from the airport. Our first introductory meeting begins 7 p.m. at the hotel.

Day 2-6: We depart the hotel each morning before sunrise to be on location for the rising sun to light the landscape. Then we look for wildlife and photograph them wherever we find them. In mid-morning, we return to Jackson for breakfast at one of the many fine restaurants in town. Then we take a break at the hotel. During late afternoon to sunset, we search for wildlife and landscapes to photograph. Depending on events during the day, we present instructional photo programs in the early afternoon or after dinner in the evening.

Day 7: We enjoy a hearty breakfast together and then say our good-byes. We wish you well on your journey home, and we are happy to suggest other places to photograph if you wish to rent a car and travel.



Figure 5 The Grand Tetons Mountain Range

Group Size:

The group size is a maximum of **five** clients and Dixie and John for a total of seven. We like the small group size in one vehicle because parking is limited at many of the best spots, we can teach everyone more about photography and the Grand Tetons, and seating at restaurants is easier to obtain. Small groups that move slowly make wildlife less nervous, allowing us a closer approach.

Plus, with only five clients, it is easy for us to provide continuous one-on-one instruction in the field. Our goal is to teach you how to use your camera gear to best advantage for making professional quality images.



Figure 6 The bighorn sheep are especially photogenic on frosty mornings.



Figure 7 The Grand Tetons

What to bring:

Clothes

Early December is winter in Jackson, Wyoming. Wear warm clothes. Boots to keep your feet warm are important to use. Warm gloves that allow your fingers to be exposed to permit working camera controls are helpful. A warm hat will do much to keep you warm.

On a clear morning that ensures wonderful light on the Grand Tetons, we plan to hike into the Mormon barns (about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile) to photograph the barns with the Grand Tetons in the background. A lens of 200mm to 300mm or a 75-300mm zoom works best to make the Tetons loom high above the barns.

Park Pass and Driver's License

You must have a park pass and a driver's license to prove who you are to enter national parks.

Camera Equipment

- 2 cameras (in case one malfunctions)
- Lenses that cover 24mm to 300mm for landscapes and sometimes wildlife
- Polarizing filter to remove glare and darken a blue sky
- Long lens for wildlife! Any lens that reaches 500mm, whether a 500mm prime lens, a shorter lens with a teleconverter to make it long, or the crop factor of small-sensor cameras that give the angle of view of a long lens.
- Tripod for shooting landscapes and wildlife with long lenses

Examples: Long prime lenses of 500mm and 600mm are excellent for wildlife. But they are big and expensive. A shorter lens, such as a 300mm f/4, becomes a 420mm f5.6 lens when a 1.4x teleconverter is inserted between the camera and the lens. That works well. And so does a small-sensor camera like the Canon 7D Mark II or new Canon 90D. Both have a 1.6x crop factor. That means the lens sees a smaller angle of view and appears to be a longer lens. A 1.6x crop factor camera used on a 300mm lens is like having a $300\text{mm} \times 1.6 = 480\text{mm}$ lens!

For the record, Dixie is using a Nikon 500mm lens and John uses a Canon 600mm f/4 lens. When photographing the bighorn sheep, John often uses the Canon 100-400mm lens as they move a lot, and often approach so close he must back up!

Please read the detailed article John wrote on long lens options that is posted on our website. <https://www.gerlachnaturephoto.com/single-post/2020/01/17/Long-Lenses-for-Wildlife-Photography>



Figure 8 The Grand Tetons one cold morning in December. With the close snow bumps in the foreground, focus stacking this scene with three images focused at different distances is the best way to capture the tremendous depth of field. A 16mm focal length made the foreground big and dramatic.

Please email John if you have any questions. johngerlachphotography@gmail.com



Figure 9 These moose are hanging out together in a bachelor herd of six bulls.