

Courses and Workshops

Summer Photography Workshop

Workshop Name: Summer Splendour of the Alps

Four-day photography workshop amidst the unspoilt beauty of the Swiss Alps, complete with luxury accommodation in an authentic mountain hamlet, and an overnight stay in a mountain hut.

Workshop Dates: 27th – 30th July 2012

Group Size: 4 – 6 participants

Workshop Summary:

Summer in the Swiss Alps is without a doubt a great season to hone your skills at capturing striking images of Nature's beauty: myriad of wildflowers and lush green mountain pastures where cows, sheep and goats graze their days away. Waterfalls cascading down from high summits into pools of crystalline water, and streams flowing towards glacial lakes 'painted' in surreal shades of turquoise and blue. Long days where eagles soar high above the valley and chamois and ibex roam the craggy hillsides against a backdrop of glaciated peaks. And as the day comes to an end, colourful hues of purple, pink, orange and red fill the summer skies, providing an awe-inspiring grand finale!

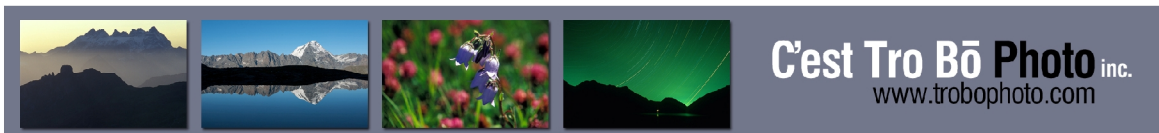
Workshop Programme:

Day 1: 27th July 2012

- 9:30 A.M. – Martigny train station pick-up (trains coming from Geneva arrive at 9:10 A.M. & 9:37 A.M.). If driving, please arrive at Montagne Alternative by 10 A.M.
- Mid-morning – Meet and greet followed by theory session (getting to know your camera, light and composition fundamentals)
- Lunch
- Afternoon – field photography outing exploring nearby Val Ferret
- Apéro & group photo presentations
- Dinner
- Photoshop & Lightroom editing session (optional)

Day 2: 28th July 2012

- 8:30 A.M. – Day excursion to the Haut Val de Bagnes nature reserve (Mauvoisin lake, Petit Combin, etc – picnic lunch on-site)
- 6 P.M. – Return to Montagne Alternative
- Apéro & group photo presentations
- Dinner
- Photoshop & Lightroom editing session (optional)



Courses and Workshops

Day 3: 29th July 2012

- 9 A.M. – Depart for Le Châble (from there taking lift network up to La Chaux)
- 10:30 A.M. – ‘Sentier des Chamois’ hike to the Cabane de Louvie (picnic lunch along the way)
- 4 P.M. – Arrive at the hut (possibility of further short excursion to historic Louvie stables (optional))
- Apéro & group photo presentations
- Dinner
- Sunset photo shoot (‘how to’ tips & techniques to properly capture the sunset light)

Day 4: 30th July 2012

- Sunrise photography shoot (reflection of the Combins in Louvie lake’s calm waters, first rays of light on surrounding area, etc)
- Leisurely breakfast at the hut
- 10 A.M. – Walk down to Fionnay (allowing ample time for photos along the way)
- 1 P.M. – Pick-up (return to Montagne Alternative)
- Lunch
- Workshop round-up & final photo presentations
- 4 P.M. – Departure

Please note: The above-mentioned programme is intended as a rough guideline only, and is subject to changes without advance notice, depending on weather conditions and/or unforeseen circumstances.

Tutor:

Sébastien Albert, professional photographer - www.trobophoto.com

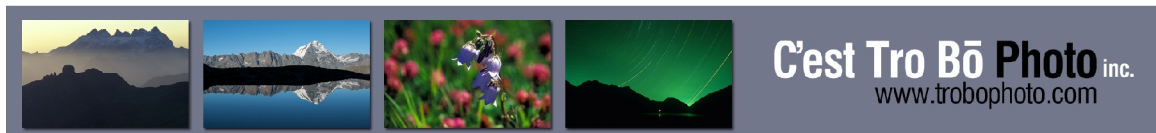
Unconditional lover of the mountain lifestyle, Sébastien Albert came to the Swiss Alps over 12 years ago, and decided to make Verbier his home after being seduced by its majestic beauty.

Through countless outings over the years, this Canadian photographer has made it his personal mission to immortalize the remarkable landscapes of the region encompassing Verbier, and as a result, his work and the beauty of Verbier’s region have become synonymous.

Both outgoing and enthusiastic, Sébastien is keen to share his passion for photography and knowledge of the area, and help you acquire the necessary photographic skills to better capture the images you desire.

Workshop Location:

Perfect, not only for its sheer beauty but also its strategic location, the Val d’Entremont will serve as our home base during this workshop. Situated within close proximity of the Rhône Valley and a good number of side valleys (*each one offering a distinct charm*), we will have more than ample locations where to venture in search of photographic inspiration!



Workshop Accommodation:

You will stay in one of Montagne Alternative's tastefully renovated age-old barns, where luxury meets simplicity in all comfort. Remaining in complete harmony with their surroundings, the barns are nestled in the heart of ancient Commeire, a remote hamlet situated on the flanks of the Val d'Entremont in the canton of Valais, Switzerland. Perched at an altitude of 1,450m, this tiny, exquisite reminder of the past offers unparalleled views upon the majestic peaks of the Mont-Blanc Massif and the Mont Vélan.

A fusion of traditional and modern, the barns have not only been beautifully renovated to preserve their traditional character, but also equipped with the latest technology, such as solar-powered heating and chimney heat-recovery.

Workshop Description:

During our time together, formal classroom tuition will be kept to a minimum; emphasis will be put on time spent outdoors, putting theory into practice, gaining as much 'hands-on' experience as possible.

With Nature as our primary subject, the workshop will focus on the colours and contrasts, and shapes & textures found within this rural, mountainous landscape. Along the way, we will turn our viewfinders towards all things beautiful, big and small. Our aim is to capture the classic scenic splendour of the mountains, and to do so in an artistic and creative manner, turning the ordinary into 'extraordinary'. Working with the available light and using creative composition will prove to be key aspects of the weekend, as we develop our skills at capturing beautiful and interesting, well-balanced images.

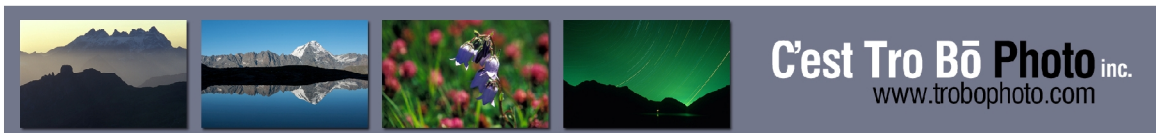
Furthermore, small groups of no more than six participants will ensure that everyone receives individual attention.

On July 27th, following an introductory theory lesson where topics such as the fundamental basics of light and composition, as well as how your camera works as a light-measuring device will be addressed, an excursion to nearby Val Ferret is planned in order to put theory into practice.

An excursion to the the Haut Val de Bagnes will take place on 28th July. We will take a walk in this unspoilt nature reserve, soak up the beautiful surroundings of Mauvoisin Lake at the end of the valley, and turn our lenses towards Edelweiss: the emblematic Swiss flower which can be found in the area at this time of year.

Later that day, a transfer will take us up the left flank of the valley to the Brunet hut. From there, a leisurely hike towards the Goli des Otanés will provide us great views & photo opportunities of the Petit Combins and its imposing, glaciated north face!

On July 29th, we will set off once again for the Val de Bagnes. Utilizing the Verbier lift system to whisk us up from le Châble to La Chaux, a hike along the 'Sentier des Chamois' will take us to Louvie, where we will be accommodated for the night in a cosy & comfortable mountain hut. Ample 'shooting' time will be allocated for the many interesting subjects encountered en route: marshes of Patiefray, Combins massif, wildlife, etc. Once at the hut, an optional short excursion to visit the historic Louvie stables will be possible, and after dinner, a sunset photo outing will allow us to capture the 'alpenglow', lighting up the nearby mountains with its colourful pink & purple hues.



And the following day (30th July), in order to make the most of the hut's spectacular setting and the soft morning light, a sunrise outing is planned, during which we will focus on capturing reflections of the Combins in the Lac de Louvie. Then, after a leisurely breakfast at the hut, we shall commence our descent to Fionnay, once again allowing plenty of time to stop whenever photographic inspiration 'grabs' us, before returning to Montagne-Alternative for the workshop's final photo presentations!

During our four days together, we will explore the following topics:

1. THE CAMERA AS A LIGHT-MEASURING DEVICE

Understanding how your camera works & the correlation between its various components.

- Shutter Speed;
- Apertures and F-stops;
- ISO sensitivity;
- Focal Length;
- Exposure Reciprocity (combination of shutter speed & aperture: the reciprocity rule);
- Subject Motion (field exercises: 'freeze' or 'blur' your subject by using various speeds— e.g. cascading waterfalls, flowers in the wind, etc);
- Depth of Field (macro/close-up photography field exercises using wildflowers).

2. COMPOSITION

Applying general rules to create well-balanced images with strong visual impact.

- Focal Point (pinpointing & isolating the main subject(s));
- Rule of Thirds (understanding what it is & how to put it to good use);
- Simplicity (presenting a clear message by keeping the composition simple);
- Leading Lines (creating energy & movement in the image: graceful curves and/or dynamic diagonals);
- Repetition (looking out for repetition of shapes & textures: creating rhythm & motion with patterns).

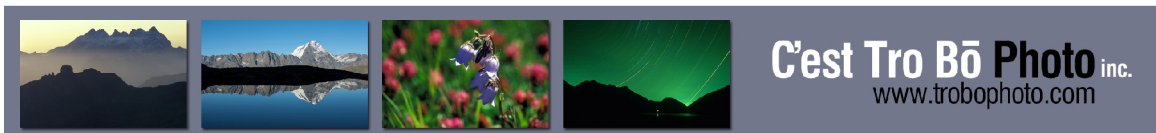
3. POST-PROCESSING & PHOTO EDITING

Learning the fundamental basics of Photoshop in order to further 'enhance' your images.

- Image cropping & re-sizing;
- Level adjustments;
- Colour corrections;
- Photo 'clean-up' using the Clone Stamp tool;
- Using layers effectively;
- Ready files for print.

We will also discuss general camera modes (exposure & focus), talk about the white balance, learn to understand histograms and try to touch on any other aspect of the camera controls (individually, as required per each participant/camera make).

At the end of each day, you will be able to download and select your favourite images to share and discuss with your group and tutor. During this exercise, conducted in an informal atmosphere, the tutor and other participants will highlight the qualities of the photographs presented, as well as offer constructive feedback.



Pre-requisites:

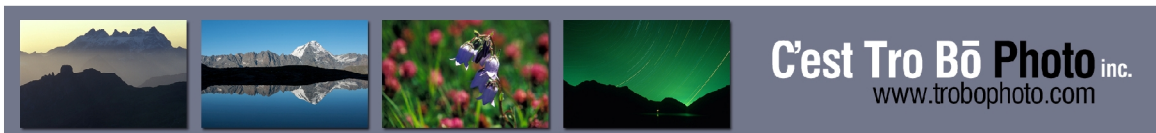
This four day workshop involves daily walking and/or hiking at altitudes ranging between 800m – 2648m. While we shall always be travelling on well-travelled marked paths, it is advisable for participants to be intermediate to good level walkers, and reasonably fit. If unsure about your level of fitness and ability to participate, please enquire at info@trobophoto.com.

Basic knowledge of how your camera works is definitely a plus, but not entirely necessary, as we will touch on this matter during the workshop. Understanding how a computer works and knowing how to successfully transfer and sort your photos is also a bonus, yet again, not mandatory for participating in this workshop.

Price: 1,080chf all-inclusive package (based on a minimum of 4 participants)

Includes:

- 4 days professional photography tuition
- Afternoon excursion to the Val Ferret
- Day excursion to the Val de Bagnes
- 'Sentier des Chamois' hike to the Louvie hut (including lift pass, and sunset & sunrise excursions)
- 2 nights accommodation at Montagne-Alternative
- 1 overnight stay at the Louvie hut
- Breakfasts
- Packed lunches
- Apéro
- Evening meals
- Wine & Refreshments
- Wifi
- Transport



What to Bring:

- ✓ Digital SLR camera with lenses covering the range from wide-angle to tele-zoom, otherwise, a 'trans-standard' zoom could suffice;

Or

- ✓ Digital 'bridge' camera (compact cameras are also a possibility, but not recommended because most do not offer 'manual mode' flexibility. If unsure about your equipment, please enquire at info@trobophoto.com;
- ✓ Memory card(s) (compatible for your camera - 1 GB minimum).
- ✓ Camera manual (ideal but not necessary);
- ✓ Charger and/or spare batteries;
- ✓ Tripod;
- ✓ Appropriate clothing: long-sleeved layers, windproof & waterproof jacket, (for cooler temperatures & possibly wet and windy weather);
- ✓ Good walking shoes;
- ✓ Walking poles (optional);
- ✓ Pen and notebook to take notes;
- ✓ Sun protection (hat, glasses, lotion, etc.);
- ✓ Water bottle (big enough for field outings);
- ✓ Laptop (Mac or PC) (ideal but not necessary);
- ✓ Card reader and/or computer transfer wires (format must be compatible with your camera);
- ✓ USB memory stick – 1GB minimum (practical but not necessary);
- ✓ All other personal effects you think necessary for your long weekend stay.

In case of doubt regarding any of the above mentioned points, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@trobophoto.com.

