

Havana-Beyond the Beach

May 27-June 3, 2017

Explore Havana with David Barbour and improve your skills as a creative photographer and be introduced to one of the most fascinating cities in the world. The one-week workshop will balance specific photo assignments with evening critiques and presentations. Each day, students will travel to various locations in the city and concentrate on photographing people and the architecture of the city. Side trips to the East Beaches and a day trip to Regla will complete the week.

The goal of this workshops is to challenge your experience as a photographer with an emphasis on discovering or improving your personal vision. Students will be given specific daily exercises that will be reviewed by the instructor on a one on one basis and then will be shared with other students in the evening.

Students are responsible for booking their own flights, hotel and insurance. We recommend Air Canada as well as www.Gran-Caribe.com where one can choose their own accommodation. The instructor has booked the Colina Hotel, a two star hotel across from the University of Havana, price is only \$55.00 per night and includes breakfast. Other hotels include the Hotel Vedado, St. John's, Havana Riviera, Capri and the Nacional. There are other booking sites for hotels in Havana, shop around for the best price. Great sale at Air Canada right now - return airfare from Ottawa for \$520. There are advantages to travel in May.

David Barbour has been a photographer for over 40 years and since 1994 has made 24 trips to Havana.

To view a portfolio of David Barbour's work, please see www.davidbarbour.com or contact him at dbarbour@davidbarbour.com if you have any questions regarding the workshop.

What to bring:

- Canadian Passport/Hotel Voucher
- Camera Equipment-your choice - digital or film, budget 2 rolls per day, tripod
- Limited change of clothing, travel light>suggest carry-on bag only
- Swim suit (just in case)
- Average daily allowance: lunch/supper/drinks>\$50. dollars per day
- You will change money at Airport exchange for Tourist dollars or downtown

Other things to consider:

- Laptop
- Universal electric converter

Work shop Schedule Tentative

Saturday May 27 Breakfast and walk along the Malecon to Plaza de la Cathedral in Old Havana. We will continue our walk to Plaza de Armas and to Plaza de San Francisco. Students will concentrate on photographing people and the architecture in the tourist zone for the day. Meet with instructor to review work during the day. We will eat supper at the Hotel Nacional at 7:00 pm in the outdoor restaurant I will be there earlier to enjoy the view.

Exercise #1 Find your subject, highlight composition in a portrait as well as an urban landscape, with the thought that less is more.

It will be quiet when we arrive in Old Havana in the morning, we will walk for 30 minutes and then you will do your morning exercise. We will eat lunch in the tourist zone, on Saturday, this is the area to be in, lots of activities. Lots of performers, people dressed in historical clothing>they all expect a \$1. a photo. In the afternoon, I will meet people and give you some feedback on the photos you are taking.

Sunday May 28 Explore Vedado in the morning, walk up the hill past, Parque Coppelia to the University of Havana and down the street to Hamel St. This is an infamous street of one artist's work. The entire block is street art. Great place for details, the photos will be important in terms of acting as a cohesive image in sequencing your work. Walk along the Malecon, up Prado and have lunch at the Inglaterra Hotel. The Inglaterra will be our downtown hub for the entire week. If you need a break and company, you will probably find someone from the workshop at the Inglaterra.

Exercise #2 Get close with a wide angle lens and photograph people doing things, three different human encounters. Pre-visualize the situation, decide your angle of view with reference to the background, ask permission and take a number of photos with you showing your subject, the photos your produce.

Supper and Photo Critique: 7pm we will eat in a very reasonable priced restaurant next door to the Hotel Vedado, great Italian food and review photos over a drink

Monday May 29 Take a cab to the Inglaterra Hotel, photograph in Central Havana in the morning, start thinking of a series of photographs that will highlight your experience and interest in Havana. It could be people or urban landscapes of one particular street. Think in terms of style, use one lens in terms of focal length, you become familiar with the distance you need to be with that one lens. Your speed of taking photographs will improve with one focal length, essential when you photograph people. One focal length also brings a cohesive structure to your photos and emphasizes a personal style of your work. Walk to the Port of Havana and take a ferry across the Bay to Regla, a district of Havana but it feels like you are in town that is very different from the city. Very quiet environment, photograph urban landscapes and people.

Take the ferry back at 5 pm and walk along the Malecon to the Hotel or you can take a cab.

Free night for supper: make your own plans for the evening

Tuesday May 30 Free day to work on personal project. Meet with the instructor to discuss subject and we will discuss locations where you will be able to find the best photos. From the tourist spots, walk through the small streets of Old and Central Havana, you might find one street that will be your beat for the rest of the week. It is better to walk down one street tens times, than ten streets once. You will become more comfortable with the area and so do your subjects as they will have seen you a number of times. Do not become invisible to people on the street, invitations to go inside a house should be gratefully declined. You will photograph on your own or with another student and meet the instructor throughout the afternoon.

Free night for supper: make your own plans for the evening

Wednesday May 31 We will go to the Fort across the Bay by cab, visit the East Beaches if you want beach time and a swim. A break from the city is a good thing. Take a cab back to the Prado and walk to the hotel. This day is weather dependent. In the evening, select 10 of your best photos of the week at the hotel and give them to the instructor.

Free night to work on your photos and give them to instructor

Thursday June 1 Start the day with a coffee and a slide show at the Hotel Colina, highlight your best photos of the week so far. Discuss your project in terms of subject and location, share your creativity with others. Lunch near the University of Havana, you will have a free afternoon to work on your project or relax. At 5pm, we will take a cab from the Vedado to Christophe Colombe cemetery, where we will explore the cemetery and the neighborhood. We will head downtown to the Inglaterra roof restaurant for night photos, as well along the Prado and Malecon.

Friday June 2 Free day to work on personal project, meet instructor at the Inglaterra Hotel one on one for personal critique of your photos.

Supper along the Malecon: Russian restaurant owned by a Canadian

Saturday June 3 Old Havana, we will finish the workshop where we started.....artists, musicians, street performers are selling their work and performing in the most interesting area of the city. Free day to work on personal project and meet the instructor.

The Last Supper: to be discussed

The post departure class will be held at my home at 93 Renfrew Ave. A date will be confirmed. You will have the opportunity to show your work and share your stories of the week with other students.

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