



Skye Photography Workshop  
Isle of Skye, Scotland, UK  
September 16 - 22, 2018

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Over the years many of us have remained connected via multiple common interests, including photography. Through my workshops, many of you have also shared an appreciation for the rewards and challenges of photographing the landscape.

Four years ago, after falling in love with Scotland and especially the Isle of Skye in 2008, Catherine and I were fortunate to take up part time residence on Skye. The island is a most amazing place!

Ranked as one of the most beautiful locations in Scotland - perfect for star gazing and northern lights, rugged coastlines, constantly changing light and weather – Skye is really a photographer's paradise. To get a taste of what you will find on Skye, a company put together a video promoting it as a movie location. To view the YouTube video, [click here](#). To see some of the images I have made over the past few years, [click here](#).

In the spirit of my past workshops, I will be conducting a photography workshop on Skye from September 16 – 22, 2018. This workshop will focus solely on photographing the landscape. Photographers of all photographic skill level are welcome – no one has too little or too much experience to attend. I will be present to provide photographic guidance during each outing, and evenings will be spent processing the day's images using Adobe® Lightroom and reviewing your photographs. And no worries about your Lightroom skill level either!

Our “base of operations” will be the Lodge on the shores of Staffin Bay on the northeast coast of Skye, we have a unique opportunity to host the workshop there.

Skye is a somewhat remote destination. The Lodge, a manor house with views towards the North Atlantic, provides gracious surroundings equipped with WIFI. No fast food is available and traditional hotels are approximately 20 miles away in the capital city of Portree. Nor are there typical tourist attractions... instead you will find spectacular sea views, craggy mountains, clouds and mist and rainbows, panoramic pastureland and whitewashed croft houses... every turn in the road leads to new visual adventure!

The cost of the workshop of \$2995.00, which includes your lodging for the entire week, three meals a day, photographic instruction and van transportation to all photographic sites. Attendance is limited to 6 participants.

A deposit of \$1,000 will secure your place. Once we have all five spots filled, I will send you an email for the balance. To register for the workshop, [click here](#)

Hopefully I have piqued your interest in joining me on the beautiful Isle of Skye! Attached you will find a PDF with more details, and as always please feel free to call me for additional information.

Best regards,

Mark  
404-386-5676  
markmaio@mindspring.com



## Isle of Skye Workshop

September 16-22, 2018

I am looking forward to meeting you and sharing the beauty of the Isle of Skye! We have a lot planned for the workshop and included below is information to assist you with the workshop.



### Transportation

Travelling from the US you will have a choice of flying into either Glasgow or Edinburgh International airports.

While Glasgow is physically closer to the Isle of Skye, drive time (approximately 4 ½ hours) is the same from either airport. One third of the drive from Edinburgh will be on a major highway while the entire drive from Glasgow will be on two lane country roads. Of course how long it takes will also depend on how many times you stop to photograph. The more scenic drive is from Glasgow although all of Scotland is beautiful.



**Rental Cars:** Both airports feature rental cars from the major companies. Most US car insurance companies do not cover you while driving internationally. Almost all rental cars in the UK are manual shift. In fact when you rent online, there aren't any options to choose an automatic. I have been given an automatic on a few occasions but the times I have asked for one at the rental counter have increased the rental price by a factor or two. As we start getting attendees registered I will start an email list so we can contact each other and possibly coordinate flights in and sharing rental cars. If you do share a car and each of you plans on driving, there will be a "second driver" charge.

**Driving in Scotland:** For those of you from the US, driving in Scotland is the exact opposite of what you are used to. The steering wheel is on the right side of the car and you drive on the left side of the road. While it seems a bit strange at first, you will get used to it quickly. Roundabouts are used extensively in Scotland and are probably the one thing it took me a while to get familiar with. Not only are you driving on the opposite side of the road while sitting on the other side of the car, but you are merging clockwise into a roundabout with anywhere from two to five exits and you are trying to figure out which of anywhere up to three lanes you need to be in to exit on the road you need to take.

**Single-Track Roads:** Once you get to the Isle of Skye (or other rural parts of Scotland), you will encounter single-track roads. These are one-lane roads with traffic going in each direction. When you meet a car coming toward you, one car pulls over into what is called a passing area on the side of the road. These passing areas are perfectly spaced and the driver closest to the next passing area on their side of the road pulls over and lets the other car proceed. Many times a car will pull over and flash their lights signaling they want you to drive on by. For more information on driving these roads, check out this link: <http://www.scotlandinfo.eu/driving-single-track-roads-in-scotland/>

**GPS:** I have found having a GPS loaded with UK maps and voice directions essential. Most addresses in Scotland do not have a street number but use a postcode as their main address.

**Transportation During the Workshop:** Instead of everyone taking their individual cars each day to the photography locations, I will be providing a van and we will go as a group each day.



## Accomodations

**Quiraing Lodge  
Staffin  
Isle of Skye  
14203**



Quiraing Lodge is set in a stunning location on the ocean in the village of Staffin on the north end of Skye. The Quiraing Lodge is a private residence run by the charity Columba 1400. Proceeds from the lodging goes back into the charity. The top floor living area of the lodge is reserved for the owners who spend a few weeks there each year.

We have access to eight sleeping rooms at the lodge. This is a house, not a hotel, so there won't be the typical amenities. Five of the rooms in the lodge have an en suite shower or bath while all the other rooms have shared bathrooms with showers except one which has a shower in the hall outside the room. We have access to the first two floors of the lodge including the kitchen area and two living rooms, one with a TV. There is free wifi access in each of the living rooms.



**Bringing a Guest:** Since this is an intensive photography workshop in a beautiful area of Scotland, I am often asked about bringing a guest. Many of us love traveling with our spouses/partners and if you haven't been to Scotland before, it seems like the perfect excuse to visit together. Many attendees plan time before or after the workshop to see other parts of the country.

The workshop is based on the north end of Skye in an area with very few amenities. The closest grocery store is twenty miles away and in-between there is nothing but beautiful scenery, sheep and a few houses. So if your guest is comfortable with a quiet setting on the ocean with no shopping or restaurant within walking distance, this is the perfect place. On the other hand, there are things to do twenty to thirty miles away. If you rent a car and they are comfortable venturing out on their own, everything will be fine. Guests have breakfast and dinner with us included in their fee, but are on their own for lunch.

**Rooms:** Rooms for attendees are included in the workshop fee. If you plan on bringing someone with you, I have secured a rooms rate of \$135 (£80), per night for guests even if you plan on sharing a room. Room rates in the UK are charged per person and ours includes breakfast and dinner at night. Lunch for guests is on their own although the Columba Center does serve lunch. To add a guest, contact me directly. I will send you a link to my Paypal account. Rooms must be paid for prior to arrival.

**Schedule:** We will meet at 7:00PM on Sunday of the workshop in the kitchen of the Lodge for an opening reception. A detailed schedule for the week will be distributed on Sunday evening.



## Food/Meals

**Meals:** Meals are included with the workshop Monday - Friday for all attendees staying at the Lodge. We will have a continental breakfast each morning and a box lunch to take with us while we are photographing. Snacks and drinks will also be provided during the day. Dinner will be together as a group at the Columba Center dining room each evening at 7:00pm. While we will have access to the kitchen in the Lodge we will not be allowed to do any cooking. We can use the refrigerator to store any personal drinks and of course I am expecting a few of us might bring a bottle of whiskey to share.

Please eat dinner on the drive up Sunday. Many restaurants, stores and gas stations on Skye are closed on Sunday. There won't be anything open in Staffin on Sunday so get gas and food in Portree, which is 20 miles south. There is a pub on the square and a few restaurants scattered throughout the town. The closest fast food is 3 ½ hours away so don't plan on doing drive through. There are two Co-op grocery stores open on Sunday in Portree. The smaller one will be on your left as you drive through town. The larger store will be a bit out of the way and will require you to look it up on your GPS.

Any special dietary requirements? Please notify Mark at: [mark@markmaio.com](mailto:mark@markmaio.com).



## Contact Information

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404-386-5676 (cell)  
Email: [mark@markmaio.com](mailto:mark@markmaio.com)



### Miscellaneous and things to remember:

- **A good flashlight:** Skye is in one of the darkest areas of Scotland, so a flashlight will come in handy.
- **Liability Waiver:** On Sunday evening you will be asked to sign a liability waiver.
- **Extra camera batteries and charger.**
- **Tripod:** Given the opportunities to photograph both the ocean and waterfalls, having a tripod to do long exposures is essential.
- **Electrical Power:** Power in the UK is 220V. Most laptop computers and battery chargers for your camera and mobile phones can be used with 220V without any special converters. You will need to get some three-prong UK adapter plugs.
- **A portable external hard drive,** so you can make backups of your files someplace other than your laptop. In each of the workshops I have taught the past five years, someone has copied their image files to their laptop only, erased their storage card and then had their laptop crash, losing all their image files.
- **A card reader** for the particular storage card your camera uses.
- **Software:** Although this is mainly a “shooting and image review” workshop, there will be times when you might want to work on your image files and we will be happy to help you. I use Adobe Lightroom as my main software program to process “raw” image files. For the most part, I use only Lightroom for the work I need to do on my images.
- **Dress for the workshop** is rugged casual. Since there will be photography opportunities requiring hiking, please dress with that in mind. A good pair of real, high-top waterproof hiking boots is recommended. It is never hot on Skye, so leave the shorts and sandals at home. Waterproof/water resistant pants are highly recommended over jeans.
- **Weather on Skye:** September days range from 60 during the day with cool nights around 50 and there is always the possibility of rain. Please bring a raincoat, a hat and some way to carry your camera and keep it dry.



**I look forward to seeing you on Skype!**

I want to make sure your participation in this meeting is a very pleasant experience. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact me.