



# Workshop Information – La Estrellita

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## Approaching the Workshop

The essence of our work during the week is to introduce you to a new way of seeing and thinking about photography. It is a method that you can take with you for life, since it enables you to be present whenever and wherever you are, with or without a camera.

Whatever your normal approach, we urge you to come with an open mind and to go with the flow. By letting the place come to you without expectation, you will experience La Alpujarra to the full and in all its guises. Photographs will follow naturally. And they are often surprising in their freshness.

## The Shape of the Week

Our schedule will vary according to your wishes and the weather conditions.

The Spanish day starts at daybreak and most activity takes place in the morning and evening. Between 2pm and 5pm nothing happens at all – siesta! In the pursuit of creativity, stillness and rest are as important as work. La Estrellita is the perfect place to chill out ...

Typically we include during the week:

- Photography exercises and sharing sessions
- Local walks in Órgiva and the countryside nearby
- A whole day excursion to the white villages of the high Alpujarra and La Tahá, with lunch in a mountain bar
- A dawn raid
- A longer hike with picnic or alternatively a visit to a neighbouring town
- An artist exchange (when available)

Thursday is free for you to explore as you wish. Some possibilities include:

- The colourful Órgiva market
- The Alhambra Palace and Granada
- The Costa Tropical and spectacular town of Salobreña
- The neighbouring spa town of Lanjarón

## The Alhambra

If you decide that you would like to visit the magnificent Alhambra palace in Granada, you might like to book before you leave home <http://www.alhambra.org/>



## General Information

### Meals

Our menu is typically Alpujarran in style and largely vegetarian.

- Breakfast each day is self-service with cereals and bread, jams and seasonal fruit, tea, coffee and juices.
- Lunch is provided on five days and will comprise either a buffet of breads, salads, tapas, cheeses and embutidos (cold cured meats such as chorizo and jamón) or a packed picnic.
- Dinner is provided on five days, leaving us the flexibility to take an evening meal out, and on the free day for you to eat out in town at a place of your choice.
- Beers and wines are available using an honesty bar system, so that you may choose to consume as you wish.
- Tea, coffee and fruit juices will be freely available throughout.

You have advised any special dietary needs on your booking form, but please let us know in advance if anything changes.

### Clothing

The climate in the Alpujarras is very agreeable and one of the sunniest in Europe, on average. Temperatures in the spring are beginning to move into the twenties during the day.

Yes, we will work in most weathers! Rain is infrequent but often heavy when it arrives.

What to bring:

- comfortable clothing for walking and working on warm days – t-shirts, shorts
- walking shoes or light boots plus house shoes
- sunglasses and sunhat
- rain jacket and travel umbrella
- **Note:** Our workshops in 2016 are a month earlier than usual owing to an early Easter - you will definitely not regret bringing a warm fleece or two and jacket plus a hat and gloves for the mountains.

### **Bathing and Swimming**

It is possible that the pool will be usable in the spring from late March onwards but we cannot guarantee it and it will be very chilly if it is! Bath towels are provided but please bring your own towel for the pool or coast.

### **Other Travel Essentials**

Do check out the recommended travel advice for Spain before you travel:

- <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain>
- <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad/countryguide/Pages/healthcareinSpain.aspx>

### **Medical**

You should carry a valid EHIC card and your travel insurance documents, of course.

We would also advise that you pack a small first-aid kit for your own use. If there is any medical condition that we should know about, please let us know in complete confidence.

### **Sun and Insect Protection**

The sun will be strong and warm at times so sun protection lotion and a protecting lip balm are essential.

Insects are not generally a problem even in high summer, but the occasional night-time mosquito can find its way in. Some insect repellent and an anti-histamine or bite-relief cream might be useful.

### **Electricals**

Spain has a 220v electric supply with two pin plug sockets. Bring a European lead for your electricals and / or a universal plug adapter. There is WiFi available in the villa.

### **Travel and Car Hire**

See our Travel Guide

### **Your Travel Arrangements**

Please let us know your travel arrangements in advance, in particular your flight times and ETA in Órgiva. You may arrive any time from 4pm on Saturday. We'll not start any activity until everyone has arrived and had the chance to unwind a little. If you are delayed, again do let us know.

If you are arriving by bus, let us know your arrival time and route and we will meet you at the bus stop in Órgiva.

### **Essential Numbers:**

Office: +44 (0)1903 812834 | Ken: +44 (0)7958 984378 | Carolyn: +44 (0)7958 984377

## FAQ

### **What photographic equipment should I bring?**

Any kind of camera will be fine for this workshop, along with your usual lenses and accessories. We encourage spontaneity and lightness of approach, so you may find that a compact camera gives you the freedom to travel and work light. The more you are weighed down by equipment and choices, the less mindful your photography is likely to be.

You are welcome to use the camera in your phone too, but we encourage you to see directly rather than through apps, so your phone should not be your only option.

Don't forget:

- Storage cards and spare batteries
- Your charger and plug adapters
- A notepad and pen for making your own notes.
- Your camera manual

### **Should I Bring a Tripod?**

In some conditions of low light a tripod will be essential. But many people find that it restricts spontaneity of seeing, so for most of the time we will encourage you to perfect your hand holding and to work in a responsive way.

### **Do I Need a Laptop or Tablet?**

Yes. Our sharing sessions are a valuable component of the workshop programme.

A laptop or tablet computer e.g. iPad on which you can store, share and sort images is essential. Make sure you have the right connections and that you are familiar with how to download from your camera or card.

When selecting images for sharing – normally six from each session - we ask you to please present them uncropped and with no or minimal post-processing. Getting everything right in camera is one of the core skills we will explore as is being able quickly to discern which images you like.

If you usually shoot RAW, then do set up your camera to record RAW + JPEG to avoid your having to spend additional time in post-processing.

### **How much walking is involved?**

We will not be mountaineering! However, this is hill country and there are some jewels to be found off the beaten track. The back streets in the hill villages can also be very steep if you explore away from the centres.

Our walks will be a few kilometres at most with gentle ascent, spread over several relaxed hours. However if the group is keen and able we might consider something longer.