

WILD PHOTOGRAPHY HOLIDAYS



THE SPIRIT OF THE GOTHS

WHITBY GOTH WEEKEND
WITH PAUL HARRIS

HIGHLIGHTS

- Whitby
- Fishing Port
- Ruins of Whitby Abbey
- Captain Cook Monument
- Goths, Ghouls, Vampires & Steampunks
- Jurassic Coastal Scenery

INTRODUCTION

The Whitby Goth Weekend has its origins back in 1994 when its founder, Jo Hampshire, met a group of pen pals through New Musical Express, one of the UK's longest running independent music magazines. This celebration of all things Gothic and Ghoulish has now established itself as one of the largest gatherings of its kind in Europe. It's easy to see how this atmospheric fishing port inspired Bram Stoker's Dracula not least because so many sites from the book remain true to the Victorian author's depiction. The medieval abbey, the churchyard below it, overflowing with mariners' graves, and the old "red roofed houses", which drape the hillside down to the harbour.

Descend the 199 worn stone steps into a warren of cobbled streets full of old smugglers' dens and low-beamed pubs, which spill down the steep edges of the North York Moors to the North Atlantic breakers, and you can understand its appeal.

Soon after Bram Stoker wrote his epic Gothic novel in the late 1800's, the Victorian photographer, Frank Meadow Sutcliffe began a comprehensive and thoughtful record of the life in Whitby, which remains an inspiration for many artists today.

However it is the Bram Stoker pilgrims of today – Goths, Ghouls, Steam Punks, Vampires and Hell Raisers – who will be the focus of our attention. Some of their costumes and demeanour may curdle the blood, but you



couldn't wish for a friendlier bunch and this bodes well to help create some wonderful portraits of a sub culture destined to remain vibrant and eclectic for years to come.

DAILY ITINERARY

The town of Whitby will be our backyard with its cobbled streets, historic harbour, extensive promenade and the majestic ruins of the Abbey. All our locations are within walking distance and subject to the whims of wandering Goths!

One of the joys of this event is the willingness of our subjects to be photographed. The challenge will be to create images which tells us something more than the surface glamour, glitz and gore.

We will keep an eye on scheduled events as part of the festival. We will also make time for downloading images and critique sessions during the day at our house, but the emphasis will be on active photography and engagement with your subjects and themes.

On our final morning we will also make time, weather and tides permitting, to explore some of the dramatic 'Dinosaur' coastline near to Whitby as well as some in-depth critique and assessment of your images.

JOINING ARRANGEMENTS AND TRANSFERS

We will meet on the first day at 17:00 in our accommodation to make the most of the evening. Therefore guests should aim to arrive no later than 16:00.

Train & Bus

There is a scheduled train and bus services to Whitby from Middlesbrough, York and Pickering. Please see whitbyonline.co.uk for transport services. We will provide pickup from bus or train in Whitby.

Car Parking

There is roadside parking outside our house. In Whitby itself the best street parking is available in the area west of the train station or up by Whitby Abbey. Alternatively, a good value Parking permit can be obtain in advance or on the day from the Whitby Tourist office opposite the train station.



Flights to the UK

The nearest airports to Whitby are Newcastle and Leeds Bradford. Or fly to London and then get a Grand Central or North East Coast Train to York or Northallerton and connection to Whitby.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 3 nights accommodation in private house
- All meals
- Photographic tuition
- Transport in and around Whitby during the workshop

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Travel & medical insurance
- Transport to and from Whitby at the beginning and end

ACCOMMODATION

We will be staying at our own private house in the village of Fylingthorpe, 6 miles from the centre of Whitby. We



will be fully catered for breakfast, lunch and dinners. There is free Wi-Fi access and roadside parking.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is recommended that you take out appropriate insurance to cover personal accident, medical costs, repatriation and loss of baggage.

LANGUAGE

English

CLIMATE & CLOTHING SUGGESTIONS

We will be spending the majority of our time walking the streets of Whitby, so a good pair of comfortable shoes or walking boots are essential. Late October in Whitby can be bracing given its proximity to north-easterly coastal winds so please bring suitable clothing for changeable weather conditions.

An element or two of Goth or Steampunk attire will be welcomed by all, but is not mandatory!

ADDITIONAL CLOTHING LIST ITEMS

- Wellington boots
- Warm hat
- Fleece neck-warmer
- Light warm gloves
- Casual clothes for inside wear
- Sun cream, sunglasses
- Head torch
- Small, basic first aid to include plasters, blister repair and any medication that you normally use



SPENDING MONEY

UK pound is the currency and cash can be easily obtained from ATM machines. There will be opportunities to buy presents and souvenirs in the city. Credit cards are accepted in most places.

PASSPORT, VISA REQUIREMENTS

If you're coming from abroad you will need a valid passport or national identity card to enter the UK. You might also need a visa, see the [UK Government website](#)

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS DUE TO COVID 19

Due to possible Covid 19 restrictions we advise you to check the [official Covid pages](#) and if travelling from abroad to consult [Entering the UK](#) on the UK Government website.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT AND INFORMATION

During this workshop we will experience people photography at its best. This will require getting close to our subject. Participants will be encouraged to use shorter

focal length lenses from 35mm to 100mm (full-frame) or 24mm to 70mm (crop-format) enabling them to create a better and more engaging portraiture for both the photographer and viewer. Additionally the following will be useful: one wide angle, one telephoto zoom lens (i.e. 70-200mm) and a prime 35mm or 50mm (full-frame) or the equivalent for crop format cameras.

- Camera bag or backpack such as the Flipside or Trekker series designed by LowePro.
- A camera with interchangeable lenses such as a digital SLR or a mirrorless system camera.
- Spare camera
- Tripod if you have one as we will have the opportunity to experiment with timelapse photography and utilise the rich light of dawn and dusk, weather permitting.
- Separate flash if you have one and hand or head torch as we will have opportunities to experiment with fill in flash.
- Remote release to avoid shake on long exposures



- Neutral density, graduated filters and polariser, if you use these. Please do not buy especially for this workshop.
- Lens cloth
- Lightweight 'trekking' absorbent towel, for drying cameras and equipment
- Sufficient memory cards
- Backup storage device (optional)
- Laptop or tablet preferably with Lightroom, Capture One or Adobe Camera RAW. A laptop/tablet is essential for checking and presenting images during the trip and for one-on-one sessions with the tutor.
- Spare batteries and chargers
- Sensor cleaning device
- Camera rain cover that can be left on while taking pictures.
- International all-in-one travel plug adapter, if you're coming from outside the UK. These are on sale at airports. All electrical sockets are UK three-pin.

There will be opportunities to review and discuss any issues you have with your photographic equipment throughout the workshop. For further advice please contact us.

MORE INFORMATION

We hope that this information has answered some of your questions about the workshop. If you have any questions please get in touch.

MORE QUESTIONS?

While we hope that this information has answered most of your questions about the holiday, we know it will not give you all the information you need. If you have any more questions, please get in touch. Talking to us on the phone (we will always call you back) can often be a quick way of sorting out individual questions. It also helps us to get to know each other before the holiday.

BOOKING THIS HOLIDAY

Fill in the [online booking form](#), or give us a call on +44 (0)1270 440222.

LINKS

View [images and information for this tour](#) on the website.

Visit [Paul Harris's website](#)

Read about [our approach to teaching photography](#)

