

# WILD PHOTOGRAPHY HOLIDAYS



## NORTH WALES PORTMEIRION & BODNANT GARDEN

### CREATIVE FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Gorgeous flower locations
- Luxury Hotel Portmeirion
- Bodnant Laburnam Arch
- Portmeirion secret gardens
- Blue Poppies
- Wildflower meadows
- Coastal landscapes & walks
- Pre-visualising for creativity
- Still life flowers
- Multiple exposures in camera

#### INTRODUCTION

Flower photography is dear to many of us and our three night/four day workshop in Snowdonia is the perfect opportunity to really experiment and take your creativity to a new level. This workshop is led by [Polina Plotnikova](#) and assisted by WPH directors [Geraldine Westrupp](#) and [Martin Sammleben](#).

During this workshop Polina will help participants to investigate new ways of approaching flower photography by demonstrating and encouraging participants to discover something unique in a flower, something hidden or not necessarily obvious at first sight. She will open new possibilities using techniques and 'gadgets' that you may have heard about but never had the opportunity to try out (nothing too complicated!) We will practice the art of

pre-visualising your creative flower shot and encourage you to find your own unique way of expressing yourself with the camera.

There will be room for all sorts of approaches on this workshop – those who appreciate the natural beauty of plants and try to stay true to their original look will love our time in the gardens during outdoor sessions. Those who prefer not to limit their point of view to purely botanical aspects of flowers will be able to play with wide range of creative in-camera techniques. Both approaches will be equally interesting to apply during our indoors session focusing on creative flower portraiture with art backgrounds. We will investigate the importance of matching your flower with background and explore ways to create your own textures that can be used either in



post processing or in-camera. We will experiment with multiple exposures in-camera together with tips and tricks during post processing your flower images. Polina is part of the Lensbaby International Trailblazers Team. During this workshop she will demonstrate how to work with various Lensbaby lenses/optics and she will show participants how special effect vintage lenses can liberate and boost your creativity. If you have one do bring it along, if you don't own one yet you will be given the opportunity to experiment and potentially transform your creative flower photography.

## OUR LOCATIONS

### Bodnant Garden

Nestling in the foothills of Snowdonia North Wales, National Trust Property Bodnant Garden drop dramatically from manicured lawns and grand, flower-filled terraces, through buzzing wildflower meadows and shrub-filled glades, into awe-inspiring dells of water gardens and towering trees. Our workshop is timed to catch the fabulous and much visited laburnum arch.

Visit the [Bodnant Garden website](#).

### Portmeirion Village

Located on a private peninsula overlooking stunning coastal scenery, the Italian Riviera meets rural Wales with a riot of colour and architectural styles at Portmeirion Village. The village is well known as the location for the 1960s cult TV series *The Prisoner*. It comprises a cluster of colour-washed buildings around a central piazza, scenic surroundings, superb flower gardens and extensive woodlands. Discover the exotic Japanese Garden with its pagoda and lily-covered lake. Uncover secret sites like the Dog Cemetery, tangle Wood, Ghost Garden and Shelter Valley. In the oriental garden, we find a classic temple overlooking the Chinese bridge and lake. Guests can take a small train and disembark at any point to explore one of the several paths that take them along coastal paths with stunning views. The white sandy beaches of the Dwyrdd Estuary surrounding Portmeirion Village are incredibly photogenic with vistas all around including across the estuary towards the Snowdonia National Park. Visit the [Portmeirion Village website](#).



## DAILY ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrival in Llandudno

Arrive at our Llandudno Hotel. We have chosen to base ourselves here for the first night as there is a good train service from many places in the UK. If you wish to use your own car then this is fine, there is car parking at both our venues. We can meet and drop off participants arriving by train. We will meet for the first time as a group at 18:00 in the hotel reception for introductions, a workshop briefing and dinner.

Landsdowne House Hotel (D)

### Day 2: Bodnant Garden & Portmeirion Village

After a relaxing breakfast we will drive for fifteen minutes through the River Conwy Valley to our location for the day, Bodnant Garden. This is a stunning National Trust Garden. Late afternoon we will drive to Portmeirion and settle in to our historic hotel in the grounds of this famous 'Italian' style village set in creatively designed gardens boasting vistas over a tidal estuary.

Hotel Portmeirion Village (B,D)





### Day 3: Portmeirion Village

A full day in Portmeirion. During the bright hours 10:00-13:30 there will be a workshop with Polina Plotnikova. After lunch we will set off for more photographic explorations of this lovely village with its surrounding coastal and forest paths. Before we meet for dinner we will have time to work on some of our images for a presentation on the last morning.

Hotel Portmeirion Village (B,D)

### Day 4: Portmeirion Village and Depart

Early morning light and a pre breakfast photography session in and around the village. After breakfast we will meet for a workshop with Polina 10:00-12:00 followed

by a presentation of the participants favourite images from the workshop. After lunch we will depart, transfers will be included to Llandudno. (B)

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transfer to and from Llandudno railway station
- Three hotel nights
- Breakfast and dinners
- Transport during the workshop
- Entrance fees to Bodnant and Portmeirion

#### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Lunches
- Beverages and alcohol

- Transport to and from Llandudno
- Anything not mentioned above

#### ACCOMMODATION

Our first night in Llandudno will be at good quality Landsdowne House Hotel. Our two nights in the Portmeirion village will be at the four star [Castel Deudraeth Hotel](#) located in the Portmeirion Village.

#### TRAVEL TO LLANDUDNO

##### By Rail

Llandudno is well connected by Rail from various UK locations. We will transfer participants from Llandudno Station to the first night hotel during the afternoon of

day one and back to Llandudno Station in the late afternoon on day four.

### **By Air**

The closest airports to Llandudno are Manchester and Liverpool there are train connections from these airports to Llandudno Station. (also from London airports).

### **By Road**

If you wish to travel to Llandudno in your own car this is fine. There is a private car park at our first night Llandudno Hotel and also at Portmeirion Village. Whilst at the Portmeirion village we will not be using cars as our photography will be in and around the village. It may be that guests wish to stay in Wales before or after the workshop so having a car could be rather useful. You will need to arrive at the hotel by no later than 18:00 on the first day of this workshop/break.

### **FOOD**

We will eat our evening meals together. In Llandudno we will eat in a local restaurant. In Portmeirion Village we will eat at the hotel. One Lunch will be in at Bodnant Garden and two lunches at Portmeirion Village, these are not included. Please ensure that any special dietary needs are mentioned on the booking form.

### **SPENDING MONEY**

There will be opportunities to buy good quality presents and souvenirs at both Bodnant and Portmeirion. Credit cards are accepted in all shops.



### **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Please ensure that you have adequate travel insurance that includes repatriation in case of accident, as well as equipment and personal belongings cover. We will need a copy of your travel insurance at the time of booking.

### **PASSPORT AND 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](https://www.gov.uk/government/world/partners/uk-visa)

### **TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS DUE TO COVID 19**

Due to possible Covid 19 restrictions we advise you to check the [official Covid pages](https://www.gov.uk/government/world/partners/uk-visa) and if travelling from abroad to consult [Entering the UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/world/partners/uk-visa) on the UK Government website.

### **LANGUAGE**

Welsh is spoken widely in the areas that we visit.

### **CLIMATE**

This is summer in the UK and it could be a bit chilly with temperatures anything between 15–25°C deg with the possibility of rain, although the end of May is statistically fairly dry.

### **CLOTHING SUGGESTIONS**

Just the normal clothes for what could be a chilly summer day or maybe a little warmer. Bring a pair of shoes and clothes that are comfortable for walking in and a raincoat. If you have any questions feel free to contact us at any time before the trip.





### LENS RECOMMENDATIONS

For flower photography you will need lenses suitable for close-up photography. A macro lens of 50/60mm or 100mm is a good choice for a full-frame camera. For smaller sensor cameras the focal lengths are shorter. However other types of lenses can produce excellent results too as long as they allow you to get really close to your subject. Many tele zooms will focus very closely, down to 1m or less, and are very versatile especially to create soft smooth backgrounds.

Also fast prime lenses (f/1.4 or f/2.0) ranging from mild wide angle to short telephoto – 35, 50, 85 or 100mm on full-frame – can be used to create beautiful images with a very shallow depth of field and soft backgrounds. Again they need to have a short minimum focussing distance. If in doubt try it on a flower in your garden.

For the Portmeirion Village elements a mid-range zoom and a tele-zoom, for instance a 24-105mm and a 70-200mm (full-frame), will do fine.

Polina will be demonstrating the Lensbaby system. If you own a Lensbaby, bring it along. If not, there will be some for you to try out under Polina's guidance.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT AND INFORMATION

- 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.
- Lenses for close-up flower photography and a set of lenses to cover the range from wide-angle to telephoto, see previous section for lens recommendations.
- Spare camera
- Sturdy travel tripod
- Remote release
- Neutral density, graduated filters and polariser, if you use these.
- Lens cloth, brush or blower
- Spare batteries and chargers



- Sufficient memory cards for the whole time
- Film users should bring enough film, as it may not be possible to buy in many places.
- A laptop or tablet with the image editing applications of your choice, essential for checking and presenting images during the trip and for one-on-one sessions with the tutor.
- Backup storage device (optional)
- Sensor cleaning device (optional)
- Travel plug adapter if you're coming from abroad. All electrical sockets are UK three-pin.

### PARTNERS

Although this is primarily a photography workshop, non-photographer partners will be very welcome as there are many options and interesting possibilities in addition to taking photographs. The price will be the same.



#### 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.

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