

WILD PHOTOGRAPHY HOLIDAYS



DAHLIA PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

WITH POLINA PLOTNIKOVA

HIGHLIGHTS

- Photographing Dahlias in natural & studio light
- Photographing Dahlias at the Dahlia Farm
- Visual presentations from Polina
- Introduction to growing, picking and arranging at Dahlia Beach
- Flower arranging workshop
- Lovely Riverside Hotel
- Pre-visualising for creativity
- Multiple exposures in camera
- Introduction to Lensbaby lenses
- Post processing flower images

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to invite you to our Dahlia photography workshop led by [Polina Plotnikova](#) and assisted by WPH directors [Geraldine Westrupp](#) and [Martin Samtleben](#)

The stunning and diverse Dahlia flowers with their incredible range of colours, shapes and sizes are a favourite of photographers and flower enthusiasts alike. During this workshop, we will explore the many facets of Dahlia photography, from capturing the intricate details of individual blooms to creating stunning compositions with clusters of flowers. 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 including multiple exposures in camera to capture dreamy and creative interpretations of the Dahlia.

In addition to the technical aspects of flower photography, including lighting, composition, and depth of field, we will experiment with a variety of different backgrounds to capture the beauty of these flowers in new and creative ways. Whether you prefer a simple, mono-



chromatic background that highlights the vivid colours of the Dahlias or a textured and patterned background that adds depth and interest to the images, you will have the opportunity to explore different techniques and discover the ones that work best for your individual style and vision.

We have chosen our riverside hotel to enable us to work in conjunction with Andie McDowell who runs the innovative [Dahlia Beach](#) which is close to the hotel. We will enjoy a 'Flower Arranging Experience' at Dahlia Beach with a 2 hour introduction to growing, picking and arranging Dahlias. We will have access to her marvellous Dahlia field for the whole day and we will probably take lunch there too. The Dahlias for our studio photography sessions will be sourced from Dahlia Beach.

Whether you're an experienced photographer or a beginner just starting out, this workshop will provide you with the tools and techniques to take your flower photography to a new level of creativity.

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.

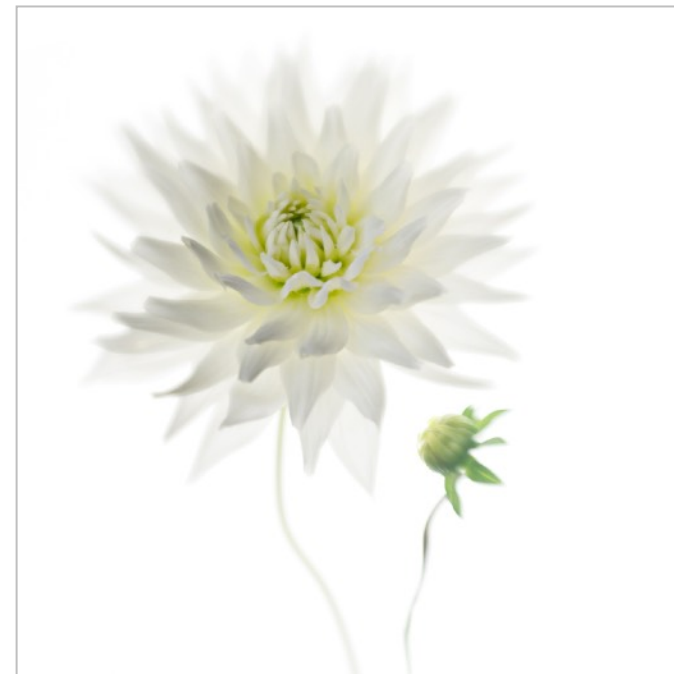
ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival at the Cosener's House Hotel

Participants should arrive in time for our first night get together at 18:00 when we will have introductions, a workshop briefing and a presentation from Polina. This will be followed by dinner at the hotel.

Day 2: Dahlia Beach

After breakfast there will be a visual presentation with tips on outdoor flower photography from Polina. Following this we will relocate to a Dahlia farm where we will work in conjunction with Andie McDowell owner of the innovative Dahlia Beach which is 20 minutes by car from the hotel. We will enjoy a 'Flower Arranging Experience' with a 2 hour introduction to growing, picking and arranging Dahlias with access to her marvellous Dahlia field for the whole day. We will leave "The Beach" for lunch. We return in the afternoon for some concentrated Dahlia photography under the watchful photographic eye of Polina. Our Dahlias for the next days studio photography



sessions will be sourced from Dahlia Beach. Early evening we will return to the hotel for dinner and a discussion of the day's experiences.

Hotel Accommodation (D)

Day 3: Creative Dahlia photography

After breakfast Polina's presentation will cover indoor flower photography tips. Following lunch we will use Dahlias from the farm for both indoor and outdoor sessions using a mixture of studio and natural light. There will be a late afternoon post processing session on the large screen where Polina will demonstrate how she develops her images. This will be followed by a post processing session when everyone can work on their own images on their laptops, with tuition on an individual basis. After dinner there will be a final presentation of



participants images

Hotel Accommodation (B,D)

Day 4: Departure

There will be an optional outdoor session in the grounds of the hotel with Dahlias from the farm in early morning light followed by breakfast. WPH services finish after breakfast. (B)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 3 Nights hotel
- 3 Evening meals
- 3 Breakfasts
- Entrance to Dahlia Beach

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Lunches
- Alcohol
- Travel insurance
- Anything not mentioned as included

ACCOMMODATION

We will be staying in the [Cosener's House](#) by the river-side in Abingdon where guests will have a single occupancy room with private facilities.

We will also have our evening meals there. Please ensure that any special dietary needs are mentioned on the booking form.

TRANSPORT

Some participants may wish to drive to and from the hotel. The alternative is the train, the nearest station is Oxford the hotel is around 20 minutes, a short taxi ride. The distance from the hotel to Dahlia Beach is around 20 minutes.

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

CLIMATE

This is late summer in the UK and it could be a bit chilly with temperatures anything between 15–25°C deg with the possibility of rain.

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 and a raincoat.

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.

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

- A camera with interchangeable lenses such as a digital SLR or a mirrorless system camera.
- Lenses suitable for flower photography, see previous section for recommendations.
- Spare camera
- Sturdy travel tripod
- Remote release
- 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 workshop, 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 in advance.

BOOKING THIS WORKSHOP

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](#)