

Frequently asked questions – Digital Pics for Dummies – Kayak Trip on Georgian Bay with White Squall

Q: This is “Digital Pics for Paddlers” – what if I have a film camera and would rather use that? Can I come on the trip?

A: Of course you can! Although the trip will focus (excuse the pun) on digital photography techniques, film techniques can be covered too if you have a film camera. Thom and I started out as film photographers back further than we care to admit – but we can accommodate the film folks too.

Q: I have a small digital camera that I bought on a whim – is it good enough?

A: Today’s “small, inexpensive” digital cameras take better shots and are smarter than the \$4000 digital single lens (DSLR) reflex camera 3 years ago! Digital cameras today are capable of making extraordinary photographs. We’ll explore its capabilities and push it to its limit!

Q: I am a complete novice photographer – what will I learn?

A: As much as you want! Our function as a resource folks on the trip is to show you how to use better photo techniques – and to answer your questions on how to get the best out of your digital camera. Our kayak guides will be taking us into some of the most breathtaking scenic areas of Georgian Bay – our “job” is to learn how to best capture what we see.

Q: I am a professional photographer – what will I learn?

A: We’re listening!! (Seriously, every one of us has a skill that the other may not have – we guarantee that we will all learn a lot. You are about to be exposed to a great bunch of people in an environment with some magnificent scenery. We’ll talk about it on the edge of the bay as we wait for the sunrise to break over the horizon – stuff like - How and where to meter. / Shoot RAW or JPEG or both? How to get the frost off the lens (August!??) / When is the coffee going to be ready? / Do you have a patch for my air mattress? / Why small rocks always crawl under your sleeping bag at night. / and then ... the sunrise!!! COOL SHOT!! THAT is why you came! Yup ... you’ll learn a lot .. and, I listen well too!)

Q: What do I need to bring with reference to digital cameras?

A: Bring your camera, the camera manual, charged batteries (enough for four days of shooting – so know how long your batteries last) and enough digital film to cover you for the duration of the trip. (There is no place to charge batteries where we are going – so make sure they are fully charged. I carry enough battery power for at least 1000 shots – and LOTS of digital film for the camera (in excess of 3 gigs of digital film memory).

Q: Is a tripod necessary?

A: Tripods will improve your still life photography a gillion percent (that is a LOT!) – they hold the camera still for long exposures and prevent camera shake – and are used to compose your shot. No need to go out and buy one – but they are HIGHLY recommended. If you don’t have one, then we’ll teach you how to get the steadiest shot you can get without one. (But I’m bringing mine!)

Q: Should I bring a polarizing filter?

A: If you have one, I highly recommend bringing it. Polarizing filters will bring those fantastic clouds out and remove reflections from water. If you don't have one, we'll show you how to use your sunglasses as a quick and dirty way of getting close to the same effect when using one of the smaller digital cameras.

Q: Do you provide any evening entertainment?

A: Thought you'd never ask! After whacking around in the twilight getting the moon rise and the sunset and doing some light painting without breaking our necks, Doug has been known to haul along a fantastic little notebook computer and we will go through some of the shots of the day and explain what went right / and what went wrong. (till the batteries run out!) We'll show you how to do some quick editing with one of the best FREE photo-editing software packages available on the net.

AND ... we all have stories to tell. Doug – if pressed - can tell you how he got the cover shot in the Toronto Sun after digging his (film) camera out of a snow bank in the high Arctic. It was on an underwater expedition that was partially funded by National Geographic – his wife had almost been killed the day before and well, just ask ...!!!

Thom has crazy stories of shooting in the Himalayas, Africa, Vietnam in hot weather and down right snotty weather too! With a little luck, we will miss the snotty weather on our trip (but hey, they make for GREAT cloud shots!)

Q: I have lots of other questions on the photo trip – who do I ask?

A: Email info@whitesquall.com and they will direct your questions to the right “answer” person.

Q: Will I have a good time?

A: Nope! – you'll have a GREAT TIME!!!