

Equipment List for Carl Heilman II Nature Photography WorkshopCarl Heilman II

Nature Photography Workshop Equipment List

Camera Equipment

(Suggested variety of equipment - but not necessary for the classes. I often suggest taking the class before buying equipment so you have a better sense of what you would like to purchase.

Please contact us with any questions re: equipment)

~ 35 mm SLR camera (digital or film, medium format - or panoramic cameras)

- one with manual settings in addition to automatic features preferred (or manual camera)
- aperture priority feature suggested for fully automatic cameras
- I use Nikon D300 Digital, F100, N90s, N70, FM, Seitz Roundshot Super 35, and Noblex 135U

~ Lenses

- the lens is the single most important camera investment - use top quality optics
- lenses with a window for the 'hyperfocal settings' (focus distance / aperture) are preferable
- wide angle, normal, telephoto, macro (extension tubes turn any lens into a macro lens)
- zooms are OK, but fixed focal length lenses are best for the wide angle lenses
- I carry various combinations of my 10.5 & 16 fisheye, 20, 24, 28, 35, 50, 105 macro, 35 - 70 zoom, 70 - 200 2.8G VR zoom - all are Nikon 2.8D series lenses or faster - plus a Sigma 10 - 20 zoom

~ Tripod

- a tripod is the second most important piece of camera equipment for nature photography
- select a versatile and very sturdy tripod that securely holds the weight of the camera and lenses (at least 10 pounds or so)
- height adjustable from ground level to about 60" or better recommended with ability to shoot near ground level easily
- I have 2 Gitzo tripods - Systematic 3540XLS, Explorer #G2228 w/ Gitzo G1275M offset ballhead

and 2 Benbos (Trekker, Standard)

- Suggested Models

- aluminum tripods - Gitzo Explorer G2220, Giottos MT93, Bogen/Manfrotto 3001B/3021B-Pro

- carbon fiber tripods - Bogen / Manfrotto 440 or 441 Carbon One

or the Gitzo Explorer series - older G2227, G2228 - newer GT2530EX, GT2540EX,
GT2931EX

or Giottos (MT 93/83/73) Aluminum/Carbon/Lava Tripod series

- tripod head - 3 way, ball head, offset ball head - other brands available -

these fit flexibility and weight specs

- Bogen / Manfrotto 3 way - 3025, 3028, 3437 ball - 484, 486, 488

grip action ball - 3265

- Gitzo 3 way - G1270M ball - G1177M, G1275M, G1276M, G1277M, G1375M

- Acratech Ultimate ball heads

- Really Right Stuff ball heads

~ Film

- I use and suggest fine grain slow speed slide (transparency) films but if you shoot
standard negative film, I suggest slow speeds (100 ASA) for fine grain and best saturation

- Velvia 100, Ektachromes (E100G, E100GX), Kodachrome (64)(slide film)

~ Cable Release

- electronic / manual / wireless remote depending on the camera

- 12" long or longer is fine

~ Backpack

- choose a pack that comfortably accomodates all your camera gear and outdoor gear

- I use a LowePro Orion AW and have found it sufficient and comfortable in all seasons

~ EXTRA BATTERIES and MEMORY CARDS

Optional Camera Equipment

~ Lens Filters

- polarizer (circular for autofocus cameras), warming - A-1, color enhancing
- split neutral density filters (+1, +2, soft edge, hard edge)
- I carry: enhancing polarizer, warming polarizer, green enhancing, color enhancing, split neutral density
 - all are Singh-Ray filters for Cokin P holder
- In order of importance for use and purchase
 - Cokin 'P' system (1 filter holder w/ adapters for each lens mount size)
 - split neutral density (high quality glass with no color tones) -
 - +1 stop soft and hard edge
 - polarizer (circular for autofocus)
 - beyond those, the +2 stop soft and hard edge split neutral density
 - last - color enhancers, etc. since today I do most color enhancing in Photoshop

~ ttl Flash System

~ Reflector (gold / silver)

~ Extension Tube System (for variations of macro photography and close-up wide angle views)

- Kenko Extension Tube Set, Nikon PK11A 8 mm tube - thinner tubes for wider angle lenses

~ Lens Reversing Attachment (for micro photography)

Outdoor Clothing and Equipment

~ Dress in layers of synthetics or natural insulating material

- coolmax, thermax, fleece, wool, silk, polyester, or similar materials
- No Cotton!!!

~ Windproof / waterproof Layer

- gore-tex or similar breathable materials is preferable over waterproof nylon

- no plastic ponchos
- ~ Insulating layer
 - long johns (in season - always good to have as emergency clothing even in summer)
- ~ Lightweight long sleeve shirt / long pants
 - for protection from biting insects
- ~ Wide brim hat - or screen bug hat
 - good for sun protection
 - helps to keep black flies from around the face, ears, and hairline
- ~ Sturdy, comfortable waterproof hiking shoes
 - we might be in some fairly wet areas, so it would be good to be waterproof to
above the ankles
 - the NEOS overshoes are great for over the shoes water protection
- ~ Bug repellent
- ~ Sunscreen
- ~ Headlamp or flashlight
 - headlamp preferred so hands remain free
- ~ Water bottle(s)
- ~ Food for the trail
- ~ Umbrella - for working in showery conditions - a white or light colored one can double
as a reflector - I am using a 'Gustbuster' Metro

Additional Equipment for Winter Photography

- ~ Additional layers of synthetics or natural insulating material beyond three season
needs
 - coolmax, thermax, fleece, wool, silk, polyester, or similar materials
 - fleece jacket
 - fleece pants

- check to make sure that all layers contain Absolutely No Cotton!!!

~ Windproof / waterproof Layer

- gore-tex or similar breathable materials is preferable over waterproof nylon
- no plastic ponchos
- important to have knee high gaiters to keep snow from going down into your boots

~ Insulating layer

- 2 pairs or more of long johns that can be worn at once
- they should have a gentle snugness and not be too tight

~ Comfortable winter boots that have a temperature rating to about 30 or 40 below zero F

- large enough to comfortably accommodate liner socks and insulating socks
- thin liner socks
- vapor barrier socks or bread bags over liner socks are helpful
for keeping insulating layers dry
- insulating socks - I find that socks made from synthetics keep me warmer for longer

~ Head gear

- balaclava - or hat and scarf - face mask
- wide brim hat can be helpful for head / shoulders protection if it is snowing

~ Hand protection

- liner gloves for handling cameras (Thermax or Outlast material is warmer than polypro)
- well insulated gloves - or
- mittens preferable - fleece liners with gore-tex or nylon overmitts

~ Hand Warmer packets

- great for both gloves and boots to help keep extremities comfortable

~ Snowshoes / ski poles (if you have them)

- (we have some available for loan)

~ My winter clothes now consist of ALL synthetics

- I have found that the combination of synthetic long johns / fleece jacket, pants /
gore-tex parka and bibs is the most versatile and warmest combination I have used.

I no longer use wool for any of my clothing layers.

~ Extra Camera Equipment

- extra batteries

- plastic bags / or good camera bags - to put equipment in before going indoors

to keep condensation from forming on / in cold camera equipment

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