Long Exposure Workshop

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27th January, 2018

- Long-exposure, time-exposure, or slow-shutter photography involves using a long-duration shutter speed to sharply capture the stationary elements of images while blurring, smearing, or obscuring the moving elements. Long-exposure photography captures one element that conventional photography does not: an extended period of time. The paths of bright moving objects become clearly visible. Clouds form broad bands, head and tail lights of cars draw bright streaks, stars leave trails in the sky, and water waves appear smoothened. Only bright objects will leave visible trails, whereas dark objects usually disappear. Boats in long exposures will disappear during daytime, but will draw bright trails from their lights at night.
- Long exposures are often used for
  - dream like images
  - spooky
  - showing motion
- Typically shutter speed is chosen so as to deliver a sharp image in normal circumstances when handholding a camera e.g. ~1/60s or faster
- Most auto modes use this as a general guide
- Your exposure time depends upon how fast your subject is moving *relative to the camera.* For, faster subjects this maybe 1/30th, for slower subjects could be several minutes
- When taking long exposures in low light noise can be an issue. Use your cameras noise reduction mode (NR) if it has one. If not, you can effectively reduce this in post processing
- Usually you will need to choose a manual or Shutter priority or to override your cameras auto mode (P)
- Lots of trial and error are usually involved ☺
- Stars move surprisingly fast, 30 sec exposure at f8 is a good starting point, aim your camera towards true north to get a nice circular pattern
- 30 secs is a good starting point for multi person images
- If you can't get a long enough exposure by reducing your ISO speed and increasing f stop number then use a neutral density filter
- Having very dark ambient light is needed for good light trails using light sticks, flash lights etc
- Above all, have fun and experiment!